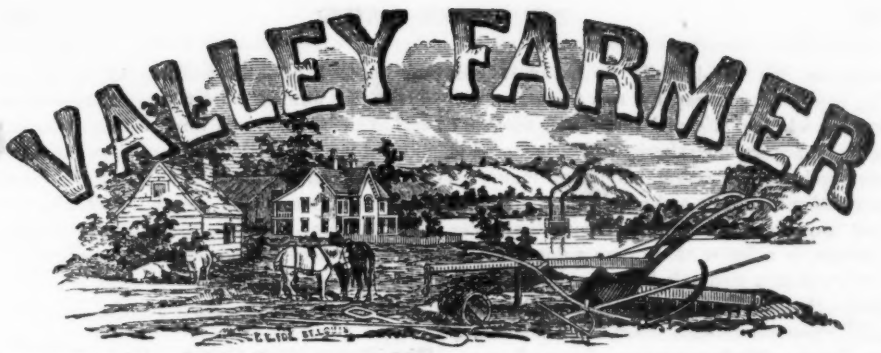

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A Higher Life Among Farmers.

Farmers of the great West: we want to speak to you of your life—not your outer, but your inner life. We want to ask you, if, as men, citizens, intelligent, moral beings, your interior life is equal to the employment of husbanding God's fair earth? You touch the springs of nature, you deal with the most beautiful and instructive things of creation. You dwell in God's Eden. The flowers bloom, the stars shine, the grass waves, the corn rustles, the herds low, for you. You sit in the lap of Nature. All her charms are open to your enjoyment. Are you intellectually and morally competent to such enjoyments? Do your inner lives correspond to the life of nature around you? Do you know the science of your profession? Do you comprehend the moral atmosphere of rural scenery? We wish to call your attention to the fact, that of all callings, yours is best adapted to intellectual pursuits, and best calculated to promóte elevation of mind and character. You are undisturbed by the petty annoyances of the mechanic, merchant and professional man. You may enjoy the calmness so promotive of sound thought and judicious meditation. You have time to think. Your books may teach you the natural sciences, and your fields may be your laboratories and cabinets, where you may examine and experiment at your will. The birds about your dwellings, and in your orchards and groves, may teach you Ornithology. The animals with which you deal may give you lessons in Zoology. The plants of your yards, gardens and fields, may instruct you in Botany. The land you till, the rocks you tread upon, may speak to you of Geology, Chemistry and Mineralogy. You may study Physiology, Anatomy and the laws of life and health, in your own and your animals' frames. You may cultivate your tastes by the pure lessons of the landscape. Art is all about you. Your own fields and groves afford you more beautiful pictures than the Masters can paint. Poetry, grand as nature's own lyrics, is written all around you. Why, then, should not your life rise in excellence, to correspond with the things with which you deal? It is true, that our philosophers, our statesmen, our moralists, our men of science, ought to grow up on our farms. Cincinnatus was a farmer, and the sturdiest and noblest man of Rome was he in his day. Washington was a farmer, and the greatest and purest man of modern times was he, the pride of all farmers—the glory of men. Farmers have sent out the finest minds of the country from their homes, such as Webster, Clay, and thousands of their stamp. But, they have gone out from the farm, rather than remain upon it to be educated and honored there. Let the farmer honor the true life; let him read, meditate, philosophize, experiment, practice what he learns, and

cultivate his mind while he cultivates his fields, and he will rapidly rise to realize and exhibit a higher life, and honor still more his already honorable profession. He has need to give up his conservatism, his narrow views, his opposition to science and scholastic attainments and improvement. He must learn that a fine thought is a better thing than a fine sheep or swine; that a rich mind is superior to a rich farm; that a cultivated intellect and heart, are nobler possessions than broad acres and numerous herds. We do not undervalue stock, crops, soil, farms. These are excellent things in their place; but, in procuring these, the farmer should be sure to secure those noble qualities of intellectual and moral manliness, which alone can honor and dignify man or his calling. A fine blooded horse with a boorish rider, looks degraded by the company forced upon him. A glorious farm with a stupid farmer, looks all the worse for its occupant. A beautiful house with ignorant and ill-bred people in it, seems to loathe its inhabitants. A rich dress on a clownish man or a silly woman, is abhorrent to good taste. Here in the West our farmers are developing farms that ought to be occupied by a race of Titans, or, at any rate, by a race of nature's noblemen. They ought to live and grow like men of the first order. They ought to be thorough farmers, scientific men, read up in the arts and improvements of modern agriculture; experimental and practical men of progress; large-minded, true-hearted, promoters of agricultural literature, of schools, colleges, churches, and everything that elevates society and ennobles man. They should know the world, and be alive to the improvements of the age. To be what they ought to be, they must not be afraid of books and papers. They must have libraries, associations, debating clubs, reading rooms, lectures on every branch of their profession. A course of agricultural lectures should be delivered in every neighborhood every Winter. A farmer needs a course of lectures as much as a physician. Farmers, themselves, should be lecturers. They should speak for their profession. They should write the books and essays on agriculture. They should teach agricultural schools, fill agricultural chairs; represent in legislatures the agricultural districts and interests, and hold the offices in their regions. Farmers do wrong to give up all learning to other minds, and all intellectual pursuits to other classes. Their profession is the foundation on which all the the worldly interests of society rest. That foundation needs to be properly honored. Let the feeling grow on all our farms, that farmers must improve themselves as well as their stock and implements; that they must go up to a higher life; must realize a nobler manhood for themselves; must give good intellectual, moral and social opportunities to their families; must rise with their profession, and honor it with noble characters and intelligent and honorable lives.

The Elementary Composition of Water —the Composition of the Atmosphere —Artificial Application to Lands.

There is a prominent analogy obviously existing between growing vegetables, and animals. The ultimate and many of the proximate elements of both are the same—they are nourished and destroyed by the same agencies. Before we can clearly understand the nature of the process of *nutrition* and growth, it is necessary to be acquainted with the chemical composition of the ATMOSPHERE, which bears a similar relation to the leaves of plants that it does to the lungs of animals.

If one measure of hydrogen gas and half as much oxygen gas; or by weight, eight grains of oxygen gas and one grain of hydrogen, be mixed in a dry glass over mercury and the mixture set on fire, the result will be the formation of *pure water*. So water is formed, and is sometimes seen collected, from the burning of common carburetted hydrogen, in the street or common shop gas-lamps; the effect being nothing more nor less than the combination of the oxygen of the air with the burning hydrogen. Water is the result of their union, and combustion or burning effects that union. The gas in the pipes would not, could not burn, if a free supply of air, or rather of oxygen, contained in that air, were cut off; and *water* is the PRODUCT of their union. So that perfectly pure water is, chemically speaking, not a simple, undecompounded element, but a compound of two elements, *oxygen* and *hydrogen;* both of which, as elements, enter largely into the composition of both animal and vegetable matter. Oil and fat owe their utility in yielding light in lamps to the presence of hydrogen. Its presence causes turpentine and rosin to blaze and burn readily, while oxygen is equally an ultimate ingredient in all vegetable and animal substances. These details may appear scientific and dry to some of our readers, but while the *Valley Farmer* is chiefly made up of articles relating to the practice and every-day operations of the farm, we deem it

important to present an occasional article upon these more scientific principles, upon which the great subject of agriculture is based. They are matters of importance and should be understood by all; the nature of vegetable and animal growth, and all that favors or retards it, is not to be understood without them.

The purest NATURAL water we can obtain, is procured by melting snow, or collecting rain-water in stations distant from the smoke of a town. If *pure* water be requisite for the experiments of a chemist, it is generally obtained by distilling rain-water in glass vessels; that is, raising it into steam by heat, then allowing the steam to condense by passing it through cold pipes. The conditions of *absolutely pure* water are, that it is perfectly transparent and colorless, limpid, not sparkling, insipid, unpleasant and sickly to the taste, and is lighter than common river or spring water. One hundred cubic inches of water weigh 252½ grains; it is 828 times heavier than air, and when expanded into steam occupies 1700 times its previous space. Steam is not nearly so heavy as the air. Water readily absorbs many gases; what is called soda-water, is water impregnated with fixed air, or carbonic acid gas. It absorbs ammoniacal gas readily in large quantities, forming what is sold in the shops as spirits of hartshorn.

Of the constitution of SEA WATER, the proportions and nature of its saline ingredients, one of their final uses in vegetation, and especially the relatively large proportion of carbonic acid it contains, we will speak when adverting to the necessity and wisdom of such arrangement.

Neither is the atmosphere which animals breath and decompose, and in which living plants carry on analogous operations, a simple element. *Air* is a compound of two gases, *oxygen* and *nitrogen*, in the proportion of two parts of *nitrogen* to one of *oxygen*. One hundred cubic inches of air, weigh 30 grains. The atmospheric pressure of the air upon the earth's surface at the level of the sea, is equal to the weight of 15 pounds upon every square inch, and is capable of supporting a column of water 34 feet high, or of mercury 30 inches high. For this reason a pump will not work, if the depth of the well be greater than 34 feet; and the hight to which the quicksilver will rise in the tube of the barometer, always corresponds to the pressure of the atmosphere: that is to say, the weight of the column of mercury in the tube is exactly equal to the weight of the entire hight of the atmosphere or of the column of water 34 feet high in the pump. The air received its heat entirely from the earth, hence the phenomena of cold which we perceive the higher we ascend from the earth's surface.

If water be passed through a red-hot gun-barrel, it will be decomposed; its oxygen will unite with the metal, its hydrogen will escape, and may be collected in the form of gas, and preserved in a bladder. Many similar experiments demonstrate the composition of water. It may be *made*, in fact *is* made, in almost every instance, where a combustible body unites with the oxygen of the air; it may be separated into its elements *unmade*, so to speak, by a variety of processes. *Synthesis* is the term chemists apply to the former; *analysis* to the latter mode of demonstrating its composition.

Now, it is materially important to remark, that there are other matters, not essential to the composition either of AIR or WATER, that in NATURE are always found mechanically mixed up or associated with each, and this is an express provision for the sustenance of animals and plants.

The atmosphere is not compounded purely of oxygen and nitrogen; it contains *carbonic acid* and *watery vapor*. The proportion of carbonic acid in the atmosphere may be regarded as equal nearly to one part in a thousand estimated by weight. The quantity varies according to the seasons, but the yearly average remains continually the same.

And the rain that descends from the clouds contains *ammonia*, one of the elements of which is nitrogen. Experiments confirm the theory upon which the presence of ammonia in rain-water might reasonably be expected. If a few hundred pounds of rain-water be carefully subjected to distillation, and the first two or three pounds evaporated, with the addition of a little muriatic acid, a very distinct crystalization of muriate of ammonia, or *sal-ammoniac*, may be obtained, which crystals have a brownish yellow color. If a little sulphur or muriatic acid be added to a quantity of rain-water, and the mixture boiled to dryness, the ammonia remains as the residue in combination with the acid employed, and it may be detected by the addition of a little powdered lime, which, combining with the acid, sets the ammonia free, and is recognized by its pungent smell. The sensation which is perceived upon moistening the hand with *rain*-water, so different from that produced by washing it in *pure* distilled water, and to which the term *softness* is applied, is owing to the presence of carbonate of ammonia in rain-water.

XUM

How this ammonia is generated in rain-water, the importance and utility of the facts, and the uses of carbonic acid in the atmosphere, are matters so closely identified with living processes in animals and plants, that we must here simply confine ourselves to the statement. We have now the *preliminary materials* for the examination of nutritive actions. When these, as they exist naturally, are understood, we shall be able to say what are those substances called FERTILIZING, which may be useful in given instances as manure; whether their application may be suitable or injurious; just as a knowledge of anatomy and physiology is necessary to the physician who would amend the diseased condition of the body. He must know what is the nature of *healthy* and *ordinary* action in the living frame, before he can understand and alter diseased action.

The artificial application of *water* in large quantities to land is a subject well understood, and its effects accurately marked and recognized in many parts of the world, that have been regarded as strictly agricultural localities during a long succession of ages. Upon some portions of our own continent, necessity has rendered the artificial application of water to growing crops absolutely necessary; and the system may, in numerous other localities, more immediately among us, be carried out to great advantage. Irrigation is, in truth, a mode of applying the weakest liquid manures, besides the necessary moisture, on a very bold scale to grass and other farm lands. Almost every intelligent farmer, acquainted with the subject, has a mode of accounting for the highly fertilizing effects of irrigation. Davy added another to the list of explanations. He thought that a winter flooding protected the grass from the injurious effects of the frost. He examined with a thermometer, and with his usual address, the water meadows near Hungerford, in Berkshire, and ascertained that the temperature of the soil was ten degrees higher than the surface of the water, and that, too, on a frosty March morning. He remarked, also, a fact that most farmers may confirm, that those waters which breed the best fish, are ever the best fitted for watering meadows.

He appears, however, never to have steadily investigated the chemical composition of river water with regard to its uses in irrigation; and, in consequence, he knew little of the value of some of its impurities to vegetation. Thus, if the river water contains gypsum (sulphate of lime), which it certainly does if the water is hard, it must, under ordinary circumstances, on this account alone, be highly fertilizing to meadows, since the grass contains this salt in very sensible proportions. Calculating that one part of sulphate of lime is contained in every two-thousandth parts of river water, and that every square yard of dry meadow soil absorbs only eight gallons of water, then it will be found that by every flooding, more than *one hundred weight and a half of gypsum per acre*, is diffused through the soil in the water, a quantity equal to that generally adopted by those who apply gypsum to their land as a manure.

And if we apply the same calculation to the organic substances, ever more or less contained in flood-waters, and if we allow only 25 parts of animal and vegetable remains to be present in a thousand parts of river water: then we shall find, taking the same data, that every soaking with such water, will add to the meadow nearly two tons of animal and vegetable matters; which, allowing, in the case of the usual number of floodings where the system is practiced per annum, is equal to the yearly application of several tons of organic matter. The quantity of foreign substances present in different rivers, differs with circumstances and localities. The Ohio river, for instance, receives many thousand tons annually, from the numerous towns and cities along its banks; and at certain seasons of the year, during the hog killing, this quantity is greatly increased. The quantity thus carried into the Gulf of Mexico, equals, in its fertilizing elements, all the guano islands in the world. Much of this might be saved from waste before it reaches the water, and rendered useful to agriculture; and the day is fast approaching when necessity will lead to this result.

The waters of mountain streams are not without their fertilizing properties. Experiments have already been made in some of the States on this side of the Rocky Mountains, to apply these to the purposes of irrigation, and that, too, with the most beneficial results.

REMEDY FOR CHILLS, AND FEVER AND AGUE.—Take one pint of sweet milk and one tablespoonfull of ground ginger, mixed thoroughly, and heated over the fire as warm as it can be drank when the chill comes on or commences. Repeat the dose once or twice, if necessary, and the cure will be effected.

N. B. If the system be costive, an aparient may be necessary in order to prepare it properly for the above prescription.

This is the most accessible, the cheapest, the most efficacious and the most speedy remedy in the world.—[*United States Journal.*

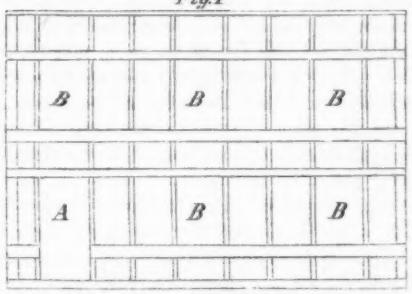
A New Plan for the Construction of Cheap and Substantial Buildings.

Some years since, in certain portions of the country, the plan of erecting plank houses was common, because this form of building was considered cheaper than the ordinary method of timber frames. In erecting houses on this plan, two-inch plank was substituted for the frame of the upright. The sills and floor timbers were framed in the ordinary manner, but in the place of posts and studs, cheap two-inch plank was used. The joist for the upper floors were mortised into the plank, and these plank and the floor joist were raised first, and the plank nailed to the sills.—After these were raised and secured, the spaces were filled in, in the same manner. The plate was of two-inch plank and placed against the *outside* of the upright plank and the latter nailed to the plate in the same manner as to the sills; the rafters and gutter were secured to the plate in the ordinary manner.

At a later period, "Balloon Frames" were introduced and became very common in some portions of the West. In point of economy this plan is superior to either the common frame, or the plank houses: while for strength and durability it is equal to either of them, The plan of erecting "Balloon Frames" has frequently been described in the public prints, and may be familiar to the most of our readers. But the method of building we now propose to give, is cheaper than either; and, as it regards strength and resistance to weather, we know of none equal to it. So far as we know, the plan is original with us, having adopted it in erecting a dwelling house and several outbuildings, ten or fifteen years ago. In the West where the price of lumber and labor is often high we can recommend it as superior to any other plan of building.

The sills and floor beams may be framed as in the ordinary method of building—or the sills may be but three inches thick and six inches wide, and halved together at the corners as is practiced in building "Balloon Frames." After the sills are placed upon the foundation, the next thing to be done is to lay out upon them the position of the doors and windows. The studs are now brought on to the foundation frame, and one laid with its foot to the mark on each side of the doors and windows, and one at each of the two corners; and if there are any very wide spaces unoccupied by doors or windows, one or more studs may be placed there. For an ordinary two-story dwelling, studs three by four inches and for corner posts four by four inches square should be used. Tenons may be made on the foot of the studs and posts and corresponding mortices in the sills; but as these are only necessary to confine each piece to its place while raising the broadside, we think it better to tack a piece of plank on the sills temporarily as a guide for the studs and posts while raising, and cut the studs and posts off square, omitting the tenons and mortices, which increase the labor, while the mortices weaken the sills and tend to hasten their decay. After the studs and posts for a broadside are laid down, parallel to each other, and properly spaced to suit the doors and windows, and all on a line at the foot, the height of the top and bottom of the windows must now be marked upon the corner posts, and a chalk line struck across the whole line of studding. Along the line at the bottom of the windows a plank from eight to twelve inches wide, and one and a half inches thick must be nailed to each stud; and at the line at the top of the windows a similar plank five or six inches wide must also be nailed. The nails should be stout, and four or four and a half inches long, and two driven near each edge of the wide plank, and one in the middle, into each stud; and three nails into the narrow plank into each stud, for upon the nails the strength of the house depends. This unites the entire broadside. (Fig. 1.) It is now ready to be raised, or it

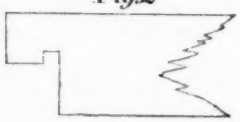
Fig.1



may remain and the opposite one be put together in the same manner, and also the studs for the ends. Whether the studs are framed into the sills, or a piece of plank tacked on as a guide for them, it must be done so that the studs will stand one and a half inches within the outer face of the sills. The sides are now to be raised, the studs properly placed, and if not framed into the sills, the foot of each stud must be securely fastened by driving a large nail into each side diagonally into the sills. When the

whole frame is up and secured at the corners, measure the hight for the ceiling, and with the chalk-line mark this hight all around upon the studs. Above this mark nail a strip one inch thick and five inches wide, with four or five large nails, into each stud. Upon this strip the joist of the second floor are laid. The ends of the joist should be cut by a pattern, so that the lower edge will come flush with the lower edge of the strip upon which they rest, while the ends of the joist are allowed to extend on a line to the outside of the posts and studs; but to render the frame more secure, a hook should be formed on the end of the joist so as to drop over the strip on which they rest, as in fig. 2.

Fig.2



For barns, store-houses, and other out-buildings, the floors of which are to sustain great weight, the strip must be partly let into the studs (this may be done before the building is raised); but for dwellings it is not necessary, as the nails will sustain all the weight that will likely ever come upon them. The third floor, when the building is of two stories high, must be secured in the same manner. No regard need be paid to the length of the studs. If any are too short to extend to the full hight of the sides or ends, they may be spliced by extending a piece from the end and strengthened by nailing a strip of inch board on each side at the joint. Having reached the top of the building, each stud on the sides is sawed off on a line to receive the plate. For the plate a strip of board one inch thick and four inches wide is sufficient, and is placed on the top of the studs, and nailed through into each. The rafters are then put on, with a notch at the heel, allowing them to project outside to receive the cornice. It should be so arranged as to have the rafters come over the studs, when practicable, and nailed into them. The studs not being near enough to give sufficient strength to walls, furrings are placed between them to suit the lath. The partitions are put up as in other buildings.

The outside covering is of sound boards (plank) one inch thick, tongued and grooved (rather deep) and nailed upright to the sills and plank above and below the windows. In order to give the requisite strength they should be nailed at top, bottom and to the middle plank, with good nails, as near as two and a half inches. In order to make the neatest finish, boards of uniform width should be selected, say about twelve inches wide, and the joints covered with narrow battens, either flat or half round; care being taken to commence the boarding so that the battens present a uniform appearance at the sides, and above and below the windows and doors.

For the roof, the best and cheapest covering, except slate or tin, is that described in a former number of the *Valley Farmer*. Having fully tested this for a number of years, on the buildings before alluded to, we do not hesitate to recommend it again. For cloth roof, procure a kind of stout, firm, hemp twilled goods, one yard wide, found in most cities. For the foundation, the roof is first covered with *seasoned* boards, running up and down, with the joints close together. Upon this the cloth is smoothly and evenly stretched, lapping the edges one inch—each strip being first tacked down. The over-lapping edges are then tacked with No. 6 or 8 tacks, three-fourths of an inch apart. Two good coats of paint are then laid on; after this, two strips half inch square are nailed at equal distances down each breadth of cloth, and another good coat of paint is applied, covering the strips and all. Spruce yellow, or, what is better, Blake's fire-proof paint, mixed in good linseed oil, may be used. If the right kind of cloth is selected, and well put on and kept painted, a roof of this kind will outlast any of the common sawed or cut shingles.

We will add, that for a *story and a half* house the plate should be twelve inches wide, and allowed to project on the outside. The increased width is necessary to prevent the roof from spreading and springing the plates outwards, while the additional precaution of nailing a narrow strip overhead across the rafters, in the form of collar-beams, will secure ample strength.

For small, ordinary out-buildings, a still more economical method may be adopted by omitting the studs and posts altogether. One of the out-buildings to which we referred in the beginning of this article, is eighteen feet square, and has neither studs nor posts. The covering is merely nailed to the sills, and to a corresponding frame at the top and the strips above and below the windows: it being well nailed, it is *perfectly tight and substantial*, and has been in use ten or twelve years.

Scurvy on Pigs.—Take one ounce of sulpher and one ounce of sugar of lead, finely pulverized and mixed with four ounces of lard, and rub on affected parts.

AN IMPROVED METHOD OF GROWING THE TOBACCO PLANT.

The improvements that have been introduced in gardening in the United States within the last twenty years are far in advance of those in any other department of cultivation. These improvements have been chiefly introduced by foreign gardeners, the result of the strong competition that has sprung up among them as market gardeners. Not only has the list of esculent vegetables been largely increased, but the skill in hot-bed management that has been adopted has brought most kinds to maturity several weeks earlier in the season than formerly, when open culture alone was depended on. Important as this system of cultivation may be to the market gardener, we deem it vastly more so to the tobacco grower, so far as the commercial value of this great staple is concerned.

Tobacco was one of the first crops introduced into the colony of Virginia, and from that early period to the present time there has been no improvement in the management of plant beds, by the old planters. A spot of *virgin* soil is selected, cleared, *burned*, and planted, usually in January or February, in order that the tardy seed may vegetate during the first warm weather in Spring; and in order to protect the young plants from the frequent occurrence of late Spring frosts, the bed is covered with brush, but with this precaution it often occurs that the plants are killed. In order to guard against a disaster so serious as this sometimes proves, nothing is wanting but to adopt the modern gardener's hot-bed; this, with proper attention, will bring the plants speedily forward, and protect them from all ordinary contingencies, and insure them of proper size in time for the first suitable "season" for setting. On the time thus gained may depend the success of the entire crop, which, if delayed for want of plants, a week or a month, it may be overtaken by drought in the summer, or by frost in the fall, and the whole be lost.

In the March number of the *Valley Farmer*, of last year, appeared an article recommending hot-beds for tobacco plants, written in and for the meridian of north-western New York, and copied by the agricultural editor of the *Louisville Journal*, who recommended it by an introductory notice to the attention of the *Kentucky tobacco growers*, for whom it was in no way adapted. Appearing in this form, our readers would naturally infer that it was with the endorsement of the Louisville editor of the *Valley Farmer*, when in fact he had never before seen it. We therefore give the method that we have practiced in raising tobacco plants under glass, with the greatest success.

A rich loam is the best soil for a plant-bed. If not rich, it should be made so, by the application of old barn-yard compost (free from the seeds of weeds and grass), or a slight sprinkling of guano, well worked into the soil, some weeks before planting; or wood ashes, in moderate quantity. The ground should be thoroughly pulverized to the depth of the soil, and raked smooth and level, and before planting it should be firmly trod with the feet or pressed with a roller. The seed may be sown any time in March, at the rate of a gill of seed to five square yards of ground. It is well to mix the seed with one quart of plaster of Paris, or ashes, which aids in its more equal distribution.—Another thorough tramping will sufficiently press and cover the seed. The ground for the bed should be raised a few inches above the surrounding surface, with a slight southern inclination. This should be surrounded with a tight plank frame, raised say twelve inches high on the north or back side, and eight inches high on the front, and the top covered with glazed frames of any convenient size, as used by market gardeners. The earth should be kept moderately wet, and in hot days the sashes should be raised at one end for ventilation. Care should be taken, as the season advances, and the heat of the mid-day sun increases, to cover the glass with some open material to slightly break the more intense rays of the sun.

Farmers not accustomed to the management of hot-beds, while giving this method a trial, might continue a small bed on the old plan. But an acquaintance with the advantages of the former, would, we are confident, lead to its general adoption and add materially to the success of of the crop.

LIQUID GLUE.—The following recipe, the discovery of a French chemist, is selling about the country as a secret, for various prices, from one to five dollars. It is a handy and valuable composition, as it does not gelatinize nor undergo putrefaction and fermentation, and become offensive, and can be used cold for all the ordinary purposes of glue, in making or mending furniture or broken vessels, that are not exposed to water, &c.

In a wide-mouthed bottle dissolve eight ounces of best glue in a half pint of water, by setting it in a vessel of water and heating till dissolved. Then add slowly, constantly stirring, two and a half ounces of strong aquafortis (nitric acid).—Keep it well corked, and it will be ready for use.

XUM

SEEDING WOODLANDS TO BLUE-GRASS.

It has been asserted by some prominent agricultural writers, that blue-grass (poa pratensis) was originally introduced into the United States from a foreign country. To assume that it is not indigenous to our own soil, is a great mistake. It is the first attendant upon the march of civilized life. No sooner does the husbandman penetrate the wilds of the forest, and commence his "clearing," admitting the light of the sun to the virgin soil, than the heretofore dormant germs of the blue-grass spring forth to afford his flocks and herds the most abundant and nutritious pasturage. There is no one variety of grass that so spontaneously springs forth and adapts itself to so wide a range of latitude, and to a climate and soil so diversified, as the blue-grass. It is found on the light sandy soils of the North and East, in the more heavy loamy soils of the Middle States, as well as upon the deep blue limestone soils of central Kentucky, and in States South and West of this. Its luxuriance, however, depends upon the depth and character of the soil—that of Kentucky yields the most nutritious and abundant crops. It appears to be almost the exclusive grass for subdued pasture lands; while in England the pastures are made up of a score or more kinds on the same land.

Although, as we have said, blue-grass is indigenous to our soil, and makes its appearance wherever the wild growth is subdued, yet in order to insure an immediate and thick-set pasture, it is important that the seed be sown upon a well prepared surface. The most profitable pastures—that is, those brought into grass at the least expense—are the woodlands in Kentucky and others similarly situated. In order to give the grass a start here, it is necessary to clear up and subdue the wild undergrowth and such larger trees as are of the least value, and to admit a portion of the sun-light to the soil. February is a month of comparative leisure with the farmer, and affords the most proper time to prepare and sow woodlands to blue-grass. The method generally practiced, is to cut out and burn all the undergrowth and the leaves that lie in the way of the seed coming in contact with the soil. In order to loosen the surface of the ground, so that the seed may find moisture necessary to insure vegetation, an implement is used, made by securing an ordinary ox tongue to a piece of stout oak plank at right angles, or diagonally, forming a scraper of the width of a common harrow. This is drawn by a stout yoke of oxen over the surface, which will sufficiently open it to receive the seed. Owing to the numerous obstructions caused by stumps and roots, neither the plow nor harrow can be used to advantage. The seed should be sown immediately while the surface is loose and open, which will be sufficiently covered by the first good rain, or by the melting of snow and the action of freezing and thawing. This process may be performed at any other time previous to the opening of Spring.

The usual quantity of seed sown to the acre, is about one bushel (fourteen pounds), some, however, sow but eight or ten pounds, but it will always be found the cheapest to sow at once a full supply where an immediate pasture is desired. Lands thus sown should not be pastured until the second year after sowing, or until it has once gone to seed, otherwise it is liable to be torn up by the roots. The universal practice of converting the best timber lands, as in Kentucky, into pastures is productive of one serious evil, viz: the ultimate destruction of all the fine timber. Of this we shall speak at another time.

FIRE-WOOD AND WOOD HOUSES.

It was a philosopher who said, that "green wood will last longer than dry;" yet dry wood is by far the most economical. In burning green wood, a large portion of it is consumed in expelling the water it contains. Besides this great loss, much less heat is given off from it than from dry wood. It is miserable economy to allow the winter months to pass by without laying in a stock of fire-wood sufficient to last through the season. Yet we have known hundreds of farmers, or those who claimed to be farmers, to spend most of the winter by the fire, and neglect to procure more wood than would barely suffice for the time being, and when spring and summer work is pressing, they are required to lose the time necessary to keep up a daily supply of wood for the kitchen. Early winter is the most proper time to cut wood, and when we are favored with snow, as has been the case the present winter, two cords are as easily drawn on a suitable sled as one cord can be in a wagon. Those who have not already secured the wood for the year, can hardly find better employment than in doing it now.

In order to reap the full benefit of having a good stock of dry wood on hand, a wood-shed is indispensable. One that will answer all the purposes can be built in a week or less, by one man, and at a trifling cost—double the amount

of which may be saved in the time of sawing wood during rainy weather, when work out of doors cannot be done. A dwelling, to us, always looks uncomfortable and unfinished without the appendage of a wood-house. A well-stored wood-house presents one of the most satisfactory evidences of thrift about the farmer's home.

THE POTATO BUG AND THE POTATO ROT.

A correspondent, in a late number of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, in alluding to the depredations committed, during the past season, by the potato bug—*American Cantharides*—labors to prove that the potato disease, so prevalent in some portions of the country, is caused by this insect. We know, from our own observations, often repeated, that the potato disease is the result of certain peculiarities of the weather, and we are equally confident that the potato bug has nothing whatever to do with the disease in question. The potato bug has been known for ages, and committed its depredations upon that plant, and upon various other kinds of garden vegetables, before the potato rot occurred. The insect referred to suddenly makes its appearance in certain districts of country, commits its depredations upon beets, tomatoes, as well as upon potatoes, and is not, perhaps, seen again in the same section for years. We are perfectly familiar with the operations of this insect, and have had acres of potatoes attacked by it, and, yet, have never witnessed any disease among the tubers where the vines had been thus eaten. Yet we have known of whole fields and crops of potatoes destroyed in a week by the rot, where not a bug had been upon the vines.

In a late number of the *Country Gentleman*, Mr. C. E. Goodrich, of Utica, N. Y., who has spent a lifetime in experimenting in the culture of the potato, and in propagating new varieties, by hundreds, attributes the potato disease entirely to certain conditions of the weather; and considers those kinds that have been longest under cultivation, the constitutional vigor of which has become impaired and weakened by age, are most liable to be affected by these peculiar atmospheric conditions.

Value of Coal Ashes on Farm Crops.—The results of several experiments are detailed in the *Boston Commercial Bulletin* of the application of coal ashes to growing crops with marked benefit. Applied to old sward, it gave two fine crops of grass where nothing but white-weed, &c. grew before. Applied to potatoes, it produced a large crop, of fine quality, and perfectly free from disease. Applied to sweet corn, and many other vegetables in the garden, it gave them a fine growth and clear, fine color.

White-weed is one of the greatest pests in some of our Western meadows. If there is anything in the coal ashes that will check the growth of this weed and promote the growth of grass, it may be applied on a larger scale. It should, however, be remembered, that the coal used in the Eastern towns and cities is anthracite, while that from our Western mines is generally of the bituminous character; but its application for agricultural purposes may be equally beneficial.

CULTIVATION OF THE BASKET WILLOW.

We have from time to time, through the columns of the *Valley Farmer*, and other publications, urged the importance of the cultivation of basket willow for home manufacture. In almost every town there are Germans, and others, who are practically acquainted with the various forms of manufacture of this article, and so great has been the demand for the raw material by these, that large quantities are every year imported from Europe, notwithstanding the considerable effort that has been made in various sections of the Union to produce a supply at home. The various kinds of willow grow kindly and rapidly in our country, and there are thousands of acres of our Western lands so low and wet as to be of but little value for any other crop, upon which willow may be grown to the best advantage.

The value of the willow-ware manufactured annually in the United States, amounts to some hundreds of thousands of dollars, and much of this is manufactured from imported willow, the freight and commissions on which are nearly equal to the actual cost of growing the article at home, while the imported article is often inferior to that of our own growth, because it is liable to become soiled in handling and from exposure on ship-board and in store.

We have for many years grown the best kind of willow in Kentucky. It grows with such luxuriance as to require but little cultivation after the first year. It is propagated from cuttings with as much certainty as any seeds of grain may be grown. A working with the plow, cultivator, and hoe, a few times, is all the cultivation that is necessary; for when the plants

become established, the ground is so much shaded that few weeds will grow among them.

For coarse baskets, for farm or other uses, the unpeeled willow is superior to any other material, while the finer portions of the crop can be peeled and wrought into baskets of a better quality.

The increased culture of fruit for transportation by railroad, requires an immense number of baskets, and this demand will continue to increase as this important branch of horticulture increases with the demands of the population and the increasing facilities for marketing.

Last summer we paid a visit to the farm of Col. Colt, the famous manufacturer of the pistol of his name. The farm is situated on the Connecticut river bottom, perhaps a mile below the city of Hartford, and is inclosed by a heavy dike, to prevent the overflow of the river. This dike is protected by thick-set rows of willow. The crop of the past season will amount to forty or fifty tons. Offers have been made by dealers in New York for the purchase of the whole of it; but Col. Colt has concluded to add to his other manufactures that of willow-ware, and he is about erecting buildings for the purpose. Besides the willow grown upon the dikes, he has seventeen acres of land established in this crop, and in the spring will add fifty more, and will give employment to eighty to one hundred men in its manufacture. At the time of our visit to his farm he had thirty acres in seed-leaf tobacco, equal in luxuriance and beauty to any that we have ever seen in Kentucky or elsewhere.

There are thousands of acres of wet land in the West that might be devoted to the growth of willow, giving employment to hundreds of workmen in the manufacture, and all find a ready market in the cities and towns at home.

A BIG STORY ABOUT POTATOES.—In our rambles in Minnesota last Summer we became acquainted with the writer of the following letter. He spoke very highly of a new variety of potato he was cultivating, and we asked him to send a statement of the yield, and here it is. He seemed to be an honest and reliable man.

EDS. VALLEY FARMER.—I will inform you, according to your request, about those potatoes that you saw growing in my garden. I raised from three potatoes ten bushels. From the largest potatoe I raised five bushels—planted one eye in each hill. The two small potatoes, I planted two eyes in each hill, and raised some few over five bushels. The largest potato grown weighed 5 lbs. 7oz.; the next, 4 lbs. 3oz., and five potatoes weighed 20 lbs. They were weighed by Dr. Babcock, of Winona, and J. D. Clyde, of Saratoga. Yours truly.

GILBERT HOLDEN.

Saratoga, Minnesota, Dec. 26, 1859.

AGRICULTURAL AND NORMAL SCHOOLS.

The people of our State seem truly anxious to found such institutions as will best promote the interests of the State, and advance the intelligence and virtue of the community. The railroad interest shows how earnest are the people in behalf of their property, and the advancement of their pecuniary affairs. The interest manifested in behalf of Agricultural and Normal Schools for the State, is truly commendable. We cannot but hope that the educational institutions, will not only keep pace, but go in advance of other interests. Intelligence is the basis of civil and religious liberty, as well as of every great interest of civilized society. Commerce, the sciences, arts, mechanics, flourish best where there is the most intelligence, and most devotion to the education of the whole people.

We have stated over and over again, the great want of an Agricultural College, liberally endowed, in a central part of the State. We mean to repeat our conviction, that no institution can more directly benefit the whole State than this, till it is founded and in active operation. It would furnish very soon an educated class of farmers, who of themselves would do more to promote the agricultural interests of the farmer than any other class of men can. They would come fresh from the practical experiments of the model farm; fresh from the laboratory of the agricultural chemist; fresh from the classes instructed in all the surest and latest knowledge of agriculture; fresh from the library and the intellectual stimulus of the college. It would also afford the best information, in every department of agriculture, that could be had for the farmers through the whole State. Every farm would soon feel its quickening influence. It would be a place in constant intercourse with the Agricultural Bureau at Washington, as well as with foreign institutions, so as to afford the latest and most reliable information, and also make the most reliable experiments in new products, grains, seeds, fruits, implements, &c. and thus save the humbuggery and deception now practiced upon the farmers in so many ways. Indeed, it appears to us one

of those absolutely essential institutions, without which our agricultural interests must languish, and our rural districts fall behind the advancing hosts of other States and callings. When we think of the millions of men and women that are soon to cover our rich lands, to cultivate our hills, valleys and prairies, we feel that they must have a college, from which may eminate those noble intellectual influences which shall stir, elevate and empower the minds of these thriving hosts of people. We are convinced that our legislature cannot do a better thing than found and endow such an institution.

There is still another educational institution greatly needed by the whole people of our State —we mean a State Normal School for the education of the teachers of the people's children. Until we have such an institution, we shall have to import nearly all our teachers. Teaching has become a profession—an honorable profession—and in the most enlightened portions of our country, it is a "learned profession." It should be so everywhere. And the profession should everywhere be open to young aspirants for its honors and usefulness. The young men and women of our State, ought to have as good opportunities to fit themselves for this profession as those of any other State. They ought not to be set back for want of opportunities. They ought not to see all the best places filled with teachers elsewhere educated, because they have had no place where they could prepare themselves for their duties. We ought to rear and educate our own teachers. Every State, every community should do this. And it cannot be done without the proper instrumentalities. We cannot educate our own physicians without medical colleges. We cannot educate a ministry whom the people will honor, and whose teachings they will follow, without the proper institutions. No more can we educate our teachers without the necessary schools. A State Normal School is a great necessity. Now, while it is everywhere acknowledged that both of these institutions are so much needed, we have thought that both might be united in one institution, and educated in the main by one board of teachers. One professor of mathematics, one of languages, one of chemistry, one of the natural sciences, and one of elocution, would do as well as two. One normal and one agricultural professor would be all that would be needed for the special departments. One set of college buildings, one library, one cabinet, one laboratory, would do quite as well as two. And everything could be the better for the union of the two. Many teachers will come from the rural districts, and be glad of agricultural instruction, and a place to work some, to keep up the tone of their systems. And many that come from the towns and villages will be glad of the opportunities for health and instruction on a model farm, Moreover, we believe that agricultural education should be given in all our schools somewhat. Every teacher ought to know something about Agriculture, Horticulture, &c. A New York paper has just taken the ground that the elements of agricultural science should be taught in the public schools. So say we, especially the public schools of the country,

Therefore, we say, let our State Agricultural and State Normal Schools be united in one great, strong, central State School. Let our legislators take the initiatory steps for such an institution at once; and let all the people join to complete and support it, that it may be an honor to the State, and a public blessing to the people.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

SOMETHING TO IMITATE.

Eds. Valley Farmer:—On my return from the country, I was invited to attend the deliberations of the Allenton (Mo.) Literary Society, which I did, and was so favorably impressed with its operations that I beg to submit its details for the consideration of your readers:

This Institution has existed for three years, and is composed of the farmers and artizans of the district and their sons, with the district school teacher. In this institution youth is no barrier to membership, and we have the gray-headed sire and his school-boy son, the teacher and the pupil, joining in the same society.

I suppose, from the call of the roll, that one-half of the Society consists of adults, one-fourth from ten to fourteen years of age, and the other fourth from fourteen to twenty. The course of business consisted of two essays and two pieces of declamation, by four of the junior members, which did credit to their taste and diligence, while the senior members freely and fully discussed "Agriculture—its defects and its remedies." And if a clear conception of existing evils, and a well-digested and comprehensive remedial system gave hopeful indications, they were exhibited on that occasion. If fathers placed the vast importance of agriculture before the minds of our youth, in its true relations—held it forth as the true foundation of our national greatness, and showed the necessity of its being the most educated, as it is the most honorable, if properly conducted—it would prove the most remunerative of all professions.

Here was a scene replete with the deepest interest. Would that it were re-enacted in every school district every week of every year, till its importance was fully understood; till we saw

all the fathers of our land take their sons by the hand and lead them in the paths of practical knowledge, and saying *Come*, instead of saying *Go* ye therein. Such fathers and such sons are the stay of our country.

This habituation to public deliberation will do more to the formation of business habits in our youth than can be imagined; and its benefits to the individual can only be appreciated by him who has been called in mature years for the first time, to preside over the deliberations of his fellow-men. Let it be echoed through our country; let us imitate such noble examples. CERES.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

POTATOES.

INTERESTING LETTER FROM MR. SAPPINGTON.

EDITORS OF THE VALLEY FARMER:—I have raised potatoes for sixty years—fifty-three of which were in Missouri, planting every kind I could procure. The present year I believe I have raised as many as forty kinds of Irish, and six of sweet potatoes.

I have one kind of Irish potato that I have raised for fifty-three years, and have never known them to mix with any other. They are a firm, rich potato, and the hardiest of any, though not as marketable of late years as some others. They are a pale red, keep well, and yield as bountifully as any I have ever raised. I call them a late potato, although I have planted them as late as the tenth of July, and had fine large ones on high rolling land. This year all kinds are large, and look fine—some weighing one and three-quarter pounds each. Among the different kinds raised this year was one given me by a gentleman of St. Louis, which yielded one and one-third bushels. I was told this potato came from the Emperor of Brazil—having his seal on one end of it. It had thirty-two eyes, which I cut off and planted separately, about eighteen inches apart, producing from the same eye two distinct varieties, one a large, beautiful red, with white spots—the other a clean white. This potato was red, although it had been somewhat abused, and might have changed the color.

I would say in regard to planting, that turning the eye up is the best plan, if the ground is not in good order, because, on the same day the Brazil potato was planted (June 16th), I had planted ten kinds on five acres, all of which rotted.

I saw an article in the *Valley Farmer* (which I read regularly, and recommend every farmer to do so), signed "Boone County," where the writer gives his plan of saving potatoes through the winter. My plan has been to put from twenty to one hundred bushels in heaps, in the field as they are dug, because I think they keep better, and do not lose their flavor so much as in a cellar. Cover them deep enough to prevent freezing. If they are in a bleak place, where the wind has a fair chance, it requires more covering. If they are covered ten feet deep, they can remain one month longer in the heap in the spring without sprouting, or until it gets warm down to them; or they may be covered with straw or leaves, and six or eight inches of earth; then straw or leaves, and some brush or something to prevent the wind from blowing it off. In this way they may be easily procured at any time through the winter, as the earth does not freeze through it.

I took the first load of Irish potatoes to St. Louis (or *Paiv-Cœur*, as it was then called,) that I ever saw there, which is more than fifty-two years ago; and in passing up old Main street, the old French women would hold up their hands, saying "Mon Dieu!" then ask in broken English, "What is that?" I told them it was an Irish potato. They wanted to know what it was for. I told them it was good to eat. "What's the price?" "Two bits," said I. "How you fix him?" I gave them one each, to try how they liked them. They said they would buy some. I drove up to about where the Bank of Missouri now stands—which was then the upper part of the town—where an old German, named Koons, kept a tavern. He said he would give two bits per bushel for the load, if I staid all night with him, and gave him two bits for my supper and breakfast, and feed for my team. I took him up at his offer.

In 1808, I procured and planted every kind of sweet potato and yam I ever saw, having got them from the South. Of these kinds, I consider the pale red, commonly raised about here, as the best and most profitable. I raised this year four hundred and fifty-two bushels of them on one acre. Some were so large that eleven would fill a bushel.

JOHN SAPPINGTON.

St. Louis County, Mo.

HORSES AND CATTLE IN THE WORLD.—An illustrated natural history of the animal kingdom has just been published by S. G. Goodrich. It has 2,400 engravings. It is a highly useful work. Among other information abounding in it, it contains the following, which is an estimate of the number of horses in various parts of the world. From this we extract the following:

The general estimate has been 8 to 18 horses in Europe to every hundred inhabitants. Denmark has 45 horses for every hundred inhabitants, which is more than any other European country.

Great Britain and Ireland have 2,500,000 horses.

France has 3,000,000.

Austrian Empire, exclusive of Italy, 2,600,000.

Russia has 3,500,000.

The United States have 5,000,000 horses, which is more than any European country; the horses of the whole world are estimated at 57,420,000.

Russia has 20,000,000 cattle.

Great Britain and Holland have 8,000,000.

Austria has 19,000,000.

France has 8,000,000.

United States of America have 22,000,000.

The whole world is estimated to contain 210,000,000. It is supposed that one-third of them are killed annually, so that we have about 28,000,000 lbs. 70,000,000 skins, 140,000,000 horns, 280,000,000 feet annually—to be converted into beef, tallow, leather, combs, manure, &c.

BREEDING AS AN ART.

NUMBER FOUR.

That law of all organic life, which provides that the offspring shall resemble the parents, and which may be denominated the *law of type*, deserves the careful study and consideration of every one who desires to breed successfully any of the various kinds of domestic animals. The examination of its operation in the various forms of animal and vegetable life, is replete with interest to every lover of nature, every admirer of that Divine Wisdom which has so wonderfully provided for the government of the natural world, by laws fixed and immutable. No atom of creation is so small as to escape their action and control. The conception, birth, growth and death of the minutest insect which trembles in the "field of vision" of the microscope, are as truly the result of the operation of natural laws, as the movements of the earth and the planets.

We observe of this law of type, that it operates with varying stringency in different animals. In all, its effect is sufficient to prevent the mixture of the species with any other. In many cases, it operates with unyielding sternness; and allows not the slightest departure from the original type. Of this, there are numerous instances; and the common butterfly will afford us a familiar and beautiful illustration. There are very many varieties of this insect; some of which closely resemble each other. In some instances, a slight difference in the color of a small spot or stripe, is the only noticable distinction. And yet, slight though it be, this difference in color forms an unerring guide to the naturalist in classifying the insects; for, in obedience to the law of type, this exact shade of color has been constantly reproduced in each succeeding generation; and has for ages marked every individual insect of the variety with unvarying precision and regularity. Each one is in every respect, exactly like every other member of its class.

But the law of type, does not, in all cases, operate with the same rigid exactness; and, in many varieties of animals, we find that, while all the distinctive characteristics of the species are preserved, there is, between the different individuals, quite a noticeable dissimilarity. Were it not for this, we should have but one kind of sheep, or one kind of cattle, or horses, or swine; and the ox of the present time, would resemble precisely his ancestors of a thousand years ago.

It is this flexibility of the law of type, as it operates in some animals, which has enabled us, by careful selection and judicious crossing, to increase the slight deviations of nature from the general type. We thus form what we call different breeds; all of which conform in the main, to the original standard or type of the race; but possess important and distinctive peculiarities, which render them better fitted for some particular purpose. These departures from the original type of the race, at first, perhaps, accidental, are in a measure rendered permanent and hereditary, by careful and judicious breeding, for several generations. But it should not be forgotten that there is a constant tendency towards the original type; and the same skill and care which were required to develop the peculiarities of a breed of animals must be continually exercised, or the blood will return to its original standard.

The wild horses of South America are undoubtedly descended from animals brought into the country by the Spaniard. We may, without doubt, assume that a fair proportion of these were from the best stock of Spain; for the Spanish cavaliers of that day prided themselves in their fine horses and horsemanship; and the spirited followers of Cortez and Pizarro, would hardly have selected any but the best animals with which to undertake their hazardous explorations of a new continent; especially when the principal item of expense—namely, the transportation across the ocean—must be incurred, as well for an inferior as for a superior animal. We may, therefore, fairly presume that the horses brought to this continent by the Spaniards, were of the very best stock then bred in Spain; and it is a matter of history, that the horses of Spain were of that day deemed superior to those of any other European nation. Horses reared upon the rich pastures of Andalusia, might be found in every courtly cavalcade on the continent, bearing such princes and nobles of fortune as could afford the expense necessary to obtain one of these chargers. Since, then, the horses left in

South America by the Spaniards, and from which the vast droves of wild horses now found in that country are descended, were undoubtedly much superior to the general stock of horses bred in Europe at that time, we might, perhaps, expect to find a corresponding superiority in their descendants of to-day over the common stock of the country. Such, however, is not the case. Freed from the dominion of man and unrestrained and unguided by the art of the breeder, they have, in obedience to the law of type, lost almost entirely the distinguishing peculiarities of their ancestors; and now bear a close resemblance to the wild horses of Eastern Europe, which are generally supposed to represent very nearly the original standard, or type of the race.

There is, however, this noticable distinction between the wild horses of South America, and those of Eastern Europe, or Asia—that the latter are with great difficulty domesticated, unless taken young, while the former are rendered docile and tractable with comparatively little difficulty.

The wild hogs, which are to be found in some portions of the south and south-west, are the descendants of domesticated animals. But these peculiarities of form and temperament, which were the result of cultivation, have rapidly disappeared, giving place to those which characterize the wild hog, wherever he is found.

The soft and beautiful fleece of the Saxon sheep would soon disappear, were they turned out to subsist alone upon the mountain herbage; and, deprived of the nursing care and succulent food provided them by the shepherd, find the rocks and the forest their only shelter. The satin-like coat and delicate limbs of the thorough-bred horse, and the large carcasses of our improved cattle, would soon disappear were they again compelled to shift for themselves, and return to their natural state.

Whatever changes, therefore, have been wrought in any of the animals of the farm by the skill of the breeder, can only be maintained and preserved by the continued exercise of the same art.—[*American Stock Journal.*

REMEDY FOR LICE ON CATTLE. — A correspondent of the *Boston Cultivator*, asserts it as a reliable fact, that keeping the stable floors sprinkled with wood ashes for two weeks after the cattle are brought into the barn, will rid the animals of lice, if they are troubled with them. He further adds, "If an animal is very badly covered with lice, a thorough washing with strong soap suds will always effect a permanent cure."

We have practiced washing with strong soap suds; but usually repeat it in order to kill those lice that hatch from the nits after the first washing.

FEEDING STOCK.

There is no department of farming that is carried on by our American, and more particularly our Western farmers, generally, with so little knowledge of the real results, as in stock feeding, though in many other matters they are close, calculating, economical and systematic. But in the care and feeding of their farm animals, they seem to follow in the course of their fathers, whose necessities and circumstances in the earlier periods of the country were such, that they were rather compelled to do as they could, and not as the farmers of the present day should and can. If the farmer would divide his stock into classes—for instance, horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, and open an account with each class, as he would in his dealings with his neighbors, charging the food and labor bestowed, and giving full credit for the returns, at the end of the year, we think, he would frequently find the balance upon the wrong side of the ledger—that the feed alone, in market, was worth more than the increase in the value of the animals that had consumed it. By this we would not be understood as believing, that the feeding of stock upon every considerable farm, was not an essential part of farm economy; for, without stock, no manure, and without manure, no increase of crops. No farm, however rich, can be maintained in fertility without manure. It may continue to yield fair crops during a generation, but a large portion of the soil of the great West is so situated that its original fertility may not only be perpetuated, but improved to the latest generation. One of the leading considerations, then, in keeping stock, should be the improvement of the soil of the farm. To secure this end, proper arrangements connected with the stables, yards, &c., should be made, so as to turn the food consumed to the best possible account. Not only this should be done in order to realize a profit upon the expense bestowed, but the food should be prepared and given, in such quantity and proportion, and at such times as the animal economy requires it, to insure the greatest increase from the amount consumed. To keep an animal through the Winter, whether of three, five or seven months' duration, a certain quantity of food is necessary to sustain life without

either the loss or gain of flesh; barely securing this, there is no profit: add a small percentage to this quantity of food, and the animal increases in weight, which increase is the chief return in the form of profit for the whole food and labor bestowed. But instead of any actual gain in the stock kept upon many farms during a considerable portion of the year, there is, from inattention and the want of skill in feeding, an actual loss in flesh and weight, which consumes a month or two of the grazing season to regain. Here, then, is not only a loss of a considerable portion of the food consumed in Winter, but the time and food of a part of the Summer is lost also. Cows kept for milk, and sheep for wool, have additional drafts upon the food consumed, and require care in keeping, and due preparation of the food accordingly.

But, in feeding stock, there can be no profitable return for the food consumed, without proper care and shelter, for, without these, there is an immense consumption of food appropriated to maintain the animal heat, which, otherwise, might be saved with proper protection from the chilling winds and storms of rain and snow of Winter. We once lived a neighbor to an extensive Western farmer, who knew but little of the practical details of his business; but whose pride seemed to prompt him to plow as many acres, though but half done, and to keep as much stock as his more advanced neighbors, whose labor and facilities for farming were far greater than his. His grain was fed in the greatest profusion—distributed over the fields in the mud to his cattle, but without shelter, and without a due proportion of the coarser kinds of food, and the consequence was, that before the grass of Spring was sufficiently forward to sustain the famishing animals, eight of his dairy cows had yielded up their hides to the tanner.

We know of some farmers, whose chief profits arise from feeding and fattening stock for the butcher. Manure is a leading consideration with them. They manage so that their stock gain in flesh constantly. To secure this end, their great aim is to supply their animals with such food, and in such quantities as to insure the greatest amount of increase at the least possible cost of food. This is the great problem for the farmer to solve.

So rapid are the improvements of the country, the increasing demand and consequent advance in the price of all kinds of farm produce, that it renders it difficult for inattentive and careless farmers to make corresponding improvements in farm management. When corn was worth but fifteen cents a bushel, and beef two or three cents a pound, and dull sale at these prices, there was less to prompt farmers to the careful husbanding of their crops, and proper feeding and protection of their farm animals. But, times have greatly changed now, and the system of stock feeding and farm management in general, should change accordingly.

CHARCOAL FOR HOGS.

A correspondent (F. D. G.) enquires whether there is any advantage in feeding charcoal to fattening or store hogs? if any, what or how? and how to feed it? A hog is a voracious eater, and if it can have access to food, of whatever kind, will eat until the capacity of its stomach will admit no more. This, as a natural consequence, as in over eating of the human subject, tends to produce deranged digestion. Charcoal exerts a powerful effect in correcting the putrid tendency of the contents of this gorged state of the stomach. And when given to swine not over-fed, it tends to maintain a healthy state of the system.

Instances are on record, where pigs and chickens have, by accident, been confined for several weeks in out-houses, and when discovered had lost but little flesh, and the only substance within their reach that could possibly serve as food was *charcoal*. If charcoal contains no nutriment, strictly speaking, it is in its character nearly pure *carbon*. When eaten by animals the carbonaceous matter serves, in connection with the oxygen of the atmosphere, to sustain heat and the vitality of the system, when without the charcoal the fat of the animal would be exhausted in the same way in its stead.

We have often fed it to all kinds of domestic fowls and to swine, with the greatest advantage in keeping up a healthy condition of the system.

How to feed it:—It should be pulverized and mixed in small proportions, with corn meal and water.

KEEPING HORSES' FEET AND LEGS IN ORDER.—If I were asked to account for my horses' legs and feet being in better order than those of my neighbors', I should attribute it to the four following circumstances: "First, that they are all shod with few nails, so placed in the shoe as to permit the foot to expand every time they move; secondly, that they all live in boxes, instead of stalls, and can move whenever they please; thirdly, that they have two hours' daily walking exercise when they are not at work; and, fourthly, that I have not a head-stall or rack-chain in my stall. These four circumstances comprehend the whole mystery of keeping horses' legs fine, and their feet in sound working condition up to a good old age."—[*Miles.*

CARE OF BREEDING ANIMALS.

Breeding animals, in winter, require special care and attention. They not only need food sufficient to sustain their own organization unimpaired, but an increased quantity for the support and development of the fœtus, while it sustains this mysterious union with its parent. Breeding animals, of whatever kind, should have a good supply of nutritious food, properly prepared, as well as shelter during stormy weather. A breeding animal, if neglected, exposed to cold storms, and poorly fed, will bring forth but poor, stunted young, which will be hardly worth the cost of raising, while the life of the mother may be endangered by being reduced in flesh and strength. This is particularly true of cows; and yet many farmers, because their cows are dried off, let them shirk for themselves, thinking that because they give no milk, rich food is unnecessary.

Dairy cows should be well sustained through the winter, and more particularly those that are with calf, for their value for milk the following season depends upon the treatment they received during the winter. March is a trying time upon cattle that have been neglected. It is a crying sin for a farmer to neglect his cows so as to allow them to get "upon the lift" in the spring. Cows in this condition will serve but a very poor purpose in supplying the family with milk during the best part of the season, besides the inferior character of the calf brought forth under such circumstances. Both the cow and the calf will require to be the better portion of the summer in good pasture, to regain the flesh that they should have had at the opening of spring.

WHAT CONSTITUTES LEGAL UNSOUNDNESS IN HORSES.

A Knee-sprung horse can hardly be said to be unsound. He may be a very fast horse, and can endure with ease the labor of any common, ordinary horse, although there is an alteration of structure which unfits him for the race-course. This would not be likely to produce disease or lameness: he would be more likely to grow better than worse, if used for common purposes. But, if so bad as to produce stumbling and falling, he would be unsound and a warranty should be taken against such *defects*.

Capped Hocks cannot be considered unsoundness, if produced by an uneven stable floor, or by kicking; but, if produced by a sprain, and a permanent thickening and enlargement of the membranes, there would be unsoundness. A special warranty should be required in such cases.

Contraction of the Hoof is a considerable deviation from the natural form of the foot, but does not necessarily constitute unsoundness. It requires, however, a most careful examination by the purchaser, to ascertain that there is no fever or ossification of the cartilage; that the frog is not diseased; that the animal is not tender footed, or lame. Unless some of these symptoms are indicated, he must not be pronounced unsound. A special warranty should be required, where the feet are contracted.

Corns manifestly constitute unsoundness. Although few men lay much stress on this malady, still much inconvenience, and many times serious difficulties, must be encountered by them, as they are seldom thoroughly cured. Many horses are almost constantly lame with corns, through a scrofulous habit of the system. A warranty against such animals would be safe.

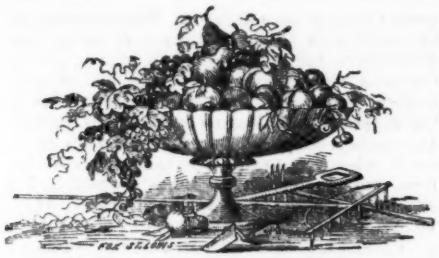
Trembling Knees.—This cannot be considered unsoundness; yet it is precursory symptom of *knee sprung*. Trembling of the knees, after a smart exercise, indicates weakness, and should be regarded as objectionable.

A Cough constitutes unsoundness, however slight or of short standing. If a horse is noticed to cough before the purchase, or immediately afterward, he is diseased; but if warranted sound, and the cough is not discovered till one or two days afterward, he is not returnable: for a few hours is sufficient to contract a cough, by taking cold while standing in a damp, musty stable, or by eating different feed, musty hay, &c.

Roaring, Wheezing or *Whistling*, is unsoundness, being the result of alteration of structure, or disease in the air passages. Although there have been decisions to the contrary, courts and jurors are often at a loss, for the want of intelligent witnesses; and if a veterinary surgeon is called to the stand, not having seen the animal, he is liable to be mistaken from misrepresentation. *Broken Wind* is still more decidedly unsoundness.

Crib Biting.—A difference of opinion exists as to this being unsoundness, and courts have given opposite decisions in respect to it. There are cribbers that can scarcely be said to be unsound, as they are not perceptibly injured, and it does not interfere with their condition or endurance. Others inhale and swallow a great amount of wind; they bloat and are subject to colic, which interferes with their health and strength; this would constitute unsoundness. A warranty should always be taken against injury from cribbing; then if he breaks his teeth or injures himself, recompense may be had.

Curb constitutes unsoundness, as long as it lasts, and perhaps while the swelling remains, although no inflammation exists; for a horse that has once thrown out a curb, is liable to do so again on the slightest exertion. A horse, however, should not be returned, if he spring a curb five minutes after purchase, for it is done in a moment, and does not indicate any previous unsoundness.



HORTICULTURAL.

THE BULLITT, OR TAYLOR GRAPE.

In a former volume of the *Valley Farmer*, we gave a history of this grape. For the facts in regard to its origin, &c. we were indebted to Judge John G. Taylor, of Henry county, Kentucky. It was through the care and efforts of this gentleman, that this grape was rescued from obscurity, and disseminated far and wide, he having sent off thousands of cuttings into almost every section of the country, since our published account of it. At an early period last season, Judge Taylor had sent away one hundred and twenty packages of cuttings, as we learned on application for some for a friend. For all this labor and cost, Judge T. made no charge to a single individual; instead of monopolizing the entire stock, as he might have done, after learning its value, and turning it to a very handsome account as most persons would have done. Besides sending the cuttings free, to all who applied for them, he has sent specimens of the fruit to numerous cultivators; some of whom, in their published notices of it, have been pleased to call it the Taylor grape.

When we applied to Judge Taylor for the history of this grape, as it appeared in the *Valley Farmer*, he gave us the local name (Bullitt) by which it had been known in the neighborhood. It was after the name of the gentleman who purchased the farm where the original vine was transplanted.

In the January number of the *Horticulturist*, Mr. Carew Sanders, of St. Louis, makes some objection to the name given to this fruit by the friends of Judge Taylor, on account of the confusion that naturally grows out of a multiplicity of names for the same fruit. His remarks, generally, are just and correct; yet in the present case, an objection already exists to calling this the Bullitt grape, because there is a grape belonging to the Muscadine family, widely known by this name. For another reason, we intimated an objection in our original remarks upon the subject, to adopting this name for so fine a fruit. We assumed no responsibility in the matter of suggesting any name at the time. For the generous and disinterested course taken by the gentleman who has brought it into notice, and given it to the public, it seems to us no more than an act of well-deserved justice in adopting the name of the Taylor Grape. But, in order that it may be sanctioned by the highest pomological authority in the land, we propose that the question be left open until the meeting of the next American Pomological Convention, which is to take place next Fall, and that some one, who may then have specimens of the fruit on hand, take the trouble to send or take them to the Convention, for examination and a name. In case the crop is likely to ripen too soon for the meeting, let specimens be sent to the President, Col. Marshall P. Wilder, of Boston; to Dr. C. W. Grant, of Iona, near Peekskill, New York; to Charles Downing, Newburgh, New York, and Dr. John. A. Warder, Cincinnati, Ohio, who shall constitute a Committee to report the subject to the Convention.

The above article from the Louisville Editor was in type before the receipt of the following letter from Judge Taylor. Although we have no permission to publish it, yet we take that liberty with it, as it relates to a subject of great interest to the Pomologists of the United States. We never supposed, for a moment, that Judge Taylor had anything to do in changing the name. His connection with the grape has been in the highest degree honorable to him, and no one would vote more cheerfully to change the name to Taylor than ourself. But until the matter comes before the American Pomological Society, we thought it improper for any single individual to give it a different name, and we think so still. Here is the letter:

FRUIT LAND, Henry County, Ky.,
January 15th, 1860.

Mr. NORMAN J. COLMAN, St. Louis Mo.

Dear Sir: In the January number of the *Valley Farmer*, I see some remarks of yours at a meeting of the members of the Meramec Horticultural Society, on the subject of the new native grapes, relative to the Bullitt Grape, in which you say you got through Mr. Byram some cuttings from Mr. Taylor, of Kentucky, and that Mr. Miller, of Pennsylvania, also got cuttings from Mr. Taylor, you presume, and has disseminated it, or called it, the Taylor Grape; and you further say, in your remarks, that, "as a multiplicity of synonyms is much to be deplored, it ought to be called the Bullitt Grape, as it has been grown for the last twelve

or fifteen years by a few persons in Kentucky, and known by that name." And fearing from your remarks some persons may conclude that I had some agency in trying to change the name of the grape from Bullitt to Taylor, I herein say to you, that I am the man Taylor spoken of, and notwithstanding the grape was not planted nor cared for by Mr. Bullitt, but by him considered in his way, and he thanked me to remove it from where Mr. Cobb planted it, I never suggested to Mr. Miller nor any one else, the change of the name of the grape; but in bringing it to the notice of the Horticulturists of the country, I called it the Bullitt Grape.

Now, sir, the history of the grape and its dissemination is this. Fifteen or twenty years ago, Dr. Jno. F. Willett, a brother-in-law of Wm. Cuthbert Bullitt, of Shelby County, Ky., knowing I took a great interest in the culture of fruit and that I was hunting up all kinds of rare and good fruit, spoke of this grape to me; and, as at that time I had never heard of a hardy white grape, I felt an interest in seeing and testing the fruit, and the next season, through Dr. Willett, I obtained a few clusters of the fruit. I then got Dr. Willett to learn of Mr. Bullitt if I could get some cuttings from it. Mr. Bullitt sent me word that I might have the vine, cuttings and all, at the proper season. I got Dr. Willett to go with a servant of mine, and show him the vine, which was dug up and brought home to me, not leaving a vestige of the vine perceivable on Mr. Bullitt's farm. But, at the time the vine was dug up, a servant woman of another Dr. Willett (Wm. G. Willett, of Lagrange, Ky.,) was present and took a part of it, or a slip, which grew. So the black woman of Dr. Wm. G. Willett and myself had the original vine and every descendant. I then sought out the man Cobb, to learn its true origin, and he (Cobb) informed me that, in passing over the Cumberland Mountains, not far from the Kentucky and Tennessee line, and not far from the road, away from near any habitation and clearing, he saw the grape growing on a bush or small tree, and that it had some few clusters of grapes on it that were then ripe: that he marked its location, and as he returned to Kentucky, the next spring, he dug it up, put it into his wagon, and brought it to Kentucky, and planted it where I had it dug from, and afterwards let Mr. Bullitt have the farm. Soon after I got the grape, Mr. Bullitt disposed of the farm, and the spot where the grape was planted by Mr. Cobb was turned into pasture, and on the location now stands the buildings of the Shelby County Agricultural Society. When the grape came to bear fruit with me, I was well apprised of its value, and could, for a small sum, have gotten from Dr. Wm. G. Willett's servant woman, the only vine out of my possession, and thereby had the whole thing in my hands, and retained it exclusively until I could have propagated thousands of vines for sale, and extorted a high price for them, and realized a large sum of money. But such was not my wish, and I freely offered, free of charge, to give slips to all who wanted them and even begged some of my friends to try it. Some took slips, and some took them seemingly to oblige me, and others refused, saying no grape but the Catawba was worth cultivating, except some foreign sorts that had to be cultivated in the grape-house. I begged of Mr. E. D. Hobbs, Lawrence Young, and a great many others, to try it, who were taking a great interest in fine fruit, but they seemed to think I would find it worthless. My old and valued friend, H. P. Byram, of Louisville, was the first man I could get to take any interest in it, and I think he got Professor Butler to try it.

Now, sir, I say I have had no agency in my friend Miller's changing its name from Bullitt to Taylor. But, in full justice to all parties, I do say, that, if the grape is worth a name, and the public ever does derive any benefit by its propagation and dissemination, Mr. Bullitt (though a gentleman of the first standing) is not entitled to its name, nor any credit connected with it, unless it proves worthless, for it was by accident it escaped his destruction. The credit is due to Cobb and myself for all the benefits the public will ever receive from the discovery, protection, and dissemination of the grape. I have sent slips to all who applied for them without even charging for boxing and sending to the depot.

In conclusion, I will say, it has borne with me for twelve or more years, is perfectly hardy, never mildews or rots, is an immense bearer and grower, is easy to propagate from slips or layers; has but one objection, and that is, the skin is so thin it is more liable to the attacks of bees, wasps, and yellow jackets than the other varieties. Does best with little pruning.

I live on a high, dividing ridge, where the soil sometimes dries, on limestone soil. As it originated on a high mountain, it may not succeed on low, wet soils and situations. I have never heard any complaints as yet. I feel confident it is bound to be one of the most popular grapes in America, both for the table and wine. It will make more wine to the bushel than the Catawba, or any other grape, as it has more juice, and it is much sweeter. My cuttings for this season are now all gone. I gave away more than two thousand cuttings. I sent Mr. Miller five hundred, a short time since. I have saved five hundred to plant myself. I have now planted thirty-four kinds of native, hardy grapes, embracing all of the most popular kinds. In a few years I will be able to judge of their qualities. I have the largest collection of hardy fruits to be found on one farm in the West. I have more than sixty acres in fruit trees, and more than five hundred cherry trees. The most have already borne fruit.

There are many soils and situations in this State that will not grow the most of the fine cherries, and will not even grow peaches successfully. But we have some situations that are as well adapted for the growth of the peach, and all kinds of fine cherries, as are to be found anywhere in the United States. For the last twenty-five years I have been studying and experimenting in the raising of fine fruit. I fear there are but few situations between the

Mississippi and Missouri rivers in your State, that the soil is adapted to the cherry and peach. The soil is too retentive of water.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN G. TAYLOR.

Jericho, Henry Co., Ky.

THE DELAWARE GRAPE, AGAIN.

In our January number we made some remarks upon a letter written by Charles B. Ott, which appeared in the *Gardeners' Monthly*, in which the writer has much to say about the Delaware grape, pronouncing it a "humbug," &c., and offering "cuttings by the cart-load for the mere cost of cutting," to those who wish them, and all from vines "eighteen years old, which scarcely ever bore anything till last year, when they had about half a crop."

In the January number of the *Gardeners' Monthly*, Mr. Ott appears again, and whether to relieve himself from a greater dilemma we will not attempt to say, but he now clearly writes himself down an ignoramus; and, in speaking of the grape, makes the acknowledgment that "I have been sadly deceived in the identity of mine," and that "mine has quite a strong, foxy odor, and is the worthless grape I have described it to be." And he further adds, that I find "I have made a grave error," &c.

From the whole tenor of Mr. Ott's letter of recantation, it is clearly evident that he knows nothing of the excellence of the Delaware grape. The vines to which he referred bear a small *black* fruit of the Northern Foxes, of inferior quality.

But we are more surprised that the intelligent editor of the *Gardeners' Monthly* should endorse Mr. Ott's opinion, that the grape he referred to was the Delaware, or that he should assert that vines could be found growing wild on the borders of the Delaware river, bearing clusters, though somewhat different from the Delaware, were the Delaware, "and nothing else."

The best Pomologists in the country, who have tasted the Delaware, place it so high in the scale of excellence, that no good judge of grapes need mistake it for a wildling.

While on this subject, we will offer one remark in regard to the controversy going on upon the subject of the origin of the Delaware. Some claim for it a native origin; others claim that it s an American seedling, from a foreign variety; while others, again, claim that it is out and out a European variety. William R. Prince, in his catalogue of grapes, pronounces it clearly a foreign variety; while, in a private letter to a gentleman who is largely engaged in propagating the vine, he says, "your Delaware grape is *not* a foreign variety; I don't say I think—*I know the fact*," &c.

Upon Mr. Prince's assertions it is needless to comment. But if the Delaware grape is a foreign variety, it is a superior one, and the only one of the thousands that have been tried in this country that proves of any value for open culture. Whether native or foreign, or an American seedling from a foreign variety, it is pronounced by good judges to be the best hardy grape yet known, and that is sufficient for the American cultivator.

PRUNING GOOSEBERRY BUSHES.

The foreign varieties of the gooseberry, like the foreign grapes, are found not to succeed with us in open culture, and the Houghton—an American seedling—has generally taken the place of the English gooseberries. This, in a good soil, is a vigorous grower, and, when properly trained, is an abundant bearer. The pruning should be annually done, and winter is the proper time to remove the surplus branches. These should be cut out, saving only sufficient old wood for bearing—leaving the head open and well thinned; and the ends of the last season's shoots should also be cut back one-half. They should also receive summer pruning, by cutting off the excess of young shoots that obstruct the light and free circulation of air.

Two new seedling gooseberries, from the Houghton, have recently been produced, both of which are superior to the parent, producing somewhat larger berries, equal, or better fruit, with a bush more upright in habit, and consequently more easily managed, and with less labor in training than the Houghton. One of these was raised by the Shakers, at New Lebanon, New York, and the other by Charles Downing, Esq., of Newburgh, in the same State. We have seen these varieties, and like them much, as productive, easily cultivated and excellent fruits. But the Houghton will yield immense crops, if properly attended to, and, with proper management, the fruit may be kept for years in a perfectly fresh state, uncooked, just as they are taken from the bushes. As the gooseberry is one of the earliest plants to put forth its leaves, even on the approach of the first warm days in winter, no time should be lost in giving the annual pruning. Provided with a good pair of buckskin gloves and pruning knife, let the work be done.

XUM

MERAMEC HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

STATE ROAD, 1st December, 1859.

The twelfth monthly and first annual meeting of the Meramec Horticultural Society was held in the house of Judge Tippet. The minutes of the former meeting were read and approved.

A copy of a letter sent by the Secretary to some of the Honorary Members upon grapes for wine making was read and approved of, and the answer of R. Buchanan, Esq., was received, read, and ordered on file for discussion at a future time.

ciety.

The Treasurer and Chairman of Fair Committee made their reports, which were, on motion, accepted and ordered to be filed.

The motion of T. R. Allen was then called up, when it was

RESOLVED, That the Secretary shall receive fifty dollars annually as compensation for his services.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, when the following persons were unanimously elected, viz:

President, Dr. A. W. McPHERSON, Allenton; Vice President, CHARLES PAFFRATH, Sunhill, Melrose; Recording Secretary, WM. MUIR, Laborville, Melrose; Corresponding Secretary, E. VAUGHN, Allenton; Treasurer, WM. HARRIS, Allenton; Executive Committee, Dr. L. D. MORSE, Allenton, T. R. ALLEN, Allenton, HERMAN STEINES, Melrose.

An interesting paper from Dr. L. D. Morse, on the Value of the Carrot, was submitted, and, after being read, was ordered to be published. [This article will be published in our next No.—EDS. VALLEY FARMER.]

SCHOOL HOUSE, ALLENTON, 5th Jan. 1860.

The thirteenth monthly meeting of the Meramec Horticultural Society was held as above. The President in the chair. The minutes of former meeting were read, amended and adopted.

A former motion was reconsidered, and thereupon,

RESOLVED, That the minutes hereafter be published in the VALLEY FARMER.

On motion,

RESOLVED, That the Secretary hand the minutes to the President as soon as written out, and that the President have authority to appoint a committee to act with him in examining and correcting the same, so that they may be forwarded immediately to the press.

The Executive Committee reported for discussion at the next regular meeting, the subject of Manures, and recommend that it be considered in the following order, viz:

FIRST—The necessity of a regular system of manuring.

SECOND—The kinds of manure, and their value in different cases.

THIRD—How to make, save, and apply manures.

A box of apples was presented to the Society by Hon. Judge Becker, through Mr. C. Paffrath, among which were very fine specimens of the Golden Seedling, Ortley, Pryor's Red, and Golden Reinette, that were pronounced remarkably fine. Mr. Braches was requested to give his opinion on the samples. He said the Golden Seedling was a fine apple; very marketable, fine flavor; but was rather more troubled by insects than some others. The Ortley, a first rate apple, productive, annual bearer; keeps well till March; have seen it keep till May. Don't think there is much difference in regard to keeping qualities between this and the Yellow Bellflower. The Pryor's Red, a fine apple, excellent flavor; is somewhat liable to insects, which makes it less productive than some of the others.

At 1 o'clock the Society adjourned for dinner, which was provided by the resident members of Allenton.

The afternoon session was opened by the inaugural address of the President.

[We have been compelled, for want of space, to abbreviate the address somewhat.—EDS. VALLEY FARMER.]

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Ladies and Gentlemen—by a unanimous vote, I am called to preside over your deliberations for another year. For this evidence of your satisfaction with my past services, and for the high mark of your confidence, voluntarily reposed in me for the future, I can only return you the profound thanks of a grateful heart.

In consequence of my position and a long established custom, you have a right to expect of me an inaugural address on this occasion.

I have labored hard to prepare myself to discharge this duty. If I fail to meet your expectations, I hope you will have much charity for this my first effort, and believe me, when I to say to you—this is the hardest task I have ever had to perform.

I shall make no effort at rhetorical display, but satisfy myself with plain suggestions and honest expressions of opinion, which, I trust, will be acceptable and to some extent profitable to us as a body.

The strife between my anxiety and inability, has been very great. Having no experience either in writing or speaking, and but little ability for either, and at the same time a deep anxiety for the promotion of the interests and prosperity of our new society, I have felt a weight of responsibility upon me, that I never experienced before. Ours is the oldest existing Horticultural Society in the State. This is a lamentable fact for the fruit interest of Missouri, which you will see, when you know that we were organized only a little more than one year ago, under very unfavorable circumstances.

First, because of our inexperience, it being a new thing to us; next, there being so few that felt any REAL INTEREST in horticulture; altogether it was confidently expected by many that we would have a few meetings pretty well attended, after which they would gradually fall off and die for the want of interest.

Others said our meetings would be kept up in NUMBERS, as long as we had such good dinners; but that the members would soon get tired of furnishing such, and then our Society would die of starvation.

Such predictions as these have been made by our friends, and men devoted to horticulture. But happy are we to day in knowing that we have outlived all these predictions, that we have passed our first annual meeting, in good health and fine spirits. These, are facts, gentlemen, of which, as a Society, we may well be proud; and, I think from the evidences before us to day, I am fully warranted in saying, that the Society is now quite as vigorous and prosperous as it ever has been.

Our meetings have been well and regularly attended, and always large enough to make them interesting, and I trust profitable.

It affords me no small degree of pleasure to speak of the CHARACTER of our meetings. In every instance, peace, harmony, and the very best social feeling has prevailed.

To these facts I wish to call your ESPECIAL attention. I am disposed to look upon it as quite remarkable. There has been a degree of good, friendly feeling enjoyed (apparently) by every member, that I have never known to exist in any such Society for the same length of time.

It may very appropriataly be asked, Why is this? We are no better than others. It does not result from an accidental union of a number of men remarkable for their amiability; it is not because we are more disposed to do right, for the sake of right, than men of other deliberative bodies.

No, gentlemen, nothing of this kind. Let us not take credit to ourselves, to which we are not clearly entitled.

I have reflected much upon this important feature, and have always thought of it with pride and satis-

faction. I account for it in this way. First, we have never allowed individual, personal interests to influence the action of the Society. And, second, in all the leading features of the discussions, our interests have been identical, most of us being comparatively ignorant in practical horticulture, consequently, anxious to learn; besides, our discussions in the main have been expressions and suggestions, formed more from reading and observation, than from actual experience in planting and fruiting.

Altogether, gentlemen, it is certainly very pleasant to reflect upon the character of our meetings during the past year; all having been marked with good social feeling, and a universal desire to promote the REAL INTERESTS of the Society. As long as this happy state of things continues; depend upon it, our influence will be felt, and that, too, for good. The itinerant character of our meetings is well calculated to extend this influence throughout the township.

If we continue as well as we have begun, we will establish here a horticultural brotherhood, whose example and influence will extend throughout the entire country.

After thus retrospecting this, the sunny side of our history, it is proper, lest we become puffed up with our unexpected success, to stop a while in the shade, and see where and in what we have failed to do our duty.

We have an Executive Committee, whose duty is plainly and fully laid down in the constitution, and if the duties therein specified were well discharged, that committee would be the very LIFE and SOUL of the Society. Upon them much depends, and I am truly sorry to have to say, but little has been done. Our published proceedings bear no record of their acts. I do hope the new incumbents in this important office, will see clearly the impropriety of the course of their predecessors, and commence with the new year the vigorous discharge of their WHOLE DUTY.

We have another office, the duties of which have been much neglected. I mean the office of Corresponding Secretary. The constitution says, it shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to conduct all letter correspondence with other societies or individuals, and lay before the Society a report of such correspondence at its meetings. During the past year we have had but one report from this source; and we have no evidence that any of our sister societies have ever been even notified of our existence from the proper source. This I look upon as a misfortune; for by extending a knowledge of our organization, transactions and future prospects, we may furnish the densely populated portions of the older States with RELIABLE information in regard to our unoccupied hills, that may be valuable to them as individuals, and to us as a community. It is much to be hoped that the present incumbent will realize fully the importance of his services to the Society, and cheerfully engage at once to do all he can for our mutual prosperity, by opening a correspondence with similar societies and individuals in all parts of the country, and labor to keep it up profitably.

There is still another instance of evident negligence in our body. I refer now to a Special Committee, appointed a year ago to-day, whose duty it was to prepare a list of the standard fruits that we could recommend for cultivation in this locality; also, their reasons for such recommendation, together with any other information they might consider valuable. A well-matured report of this kind would be of much value to the Society, and I think highly appreciated by all in this vicinity who read our proceedings. But, alas! their report has been called for at almost every meeting since their appointment, and still, to this day, we have had but a partial and very meagre report from two of the committee of five. This is a lamentable history of (to us) so important a committee. The planting season is approaching now, the second time (since their appointment.) I sincerely hope that THIS will stir them up to the completion of a work in which so many are interested, and which is calculated to be of so much value to community. We should do all in our power to disseminate the KIND of information most needed; and to the man who is planting an orchard, there is no one thing of more importance for him to know, than the varieties best suited to our soil, climate and markets. Let us by every means practicable be zealous and active in the diffusion of useful and practical information, by which we will be mutually benefited. Let us thus labor together to make it truly a philanthropic association.

I hope there is not a member in this Society who would wish to prosper himself, and see his neighbors retrograding. I take the ground that an individual cannot succeed well anywhere unless there is a healthy and prosperous condition of society. There is but little hope for one to flourish unless the whole community is prospering. Hence the importance of looking beyond our own gardens and orchards; and when ours are doing well we should always be glad to see others, if practicable, doing BETTER. And to encourage this general prosperity, we are always willing, whenever or wherever we can, to aid, assist, or instruct a neighbor who is beginning in horticulture.

The honest, enterprising, true, and successful fruit grower has no secrets; but, instead, is always ready and willing to publish for the benefit of all who will read, how and by what means he succeeds better than others. This leads me to suggest to you the great importance of reading, in order to succeed in this branch of agriculture. Reading is quite as important to us as to men engaged in any other business. And we all know that no business man can in justice to himself afford to omit posting himself up in the science, new discoveries and events of the day, in his particular branch.

It seems to me next to indispensable that every member should take at least one paper devoted to our home interests; and I would say here, that if you can take but one, let that one be the VALLEY FARMER. It is a good practical paper, published in, and adapted to, our immediate locality, and advocating our interests. It will also hereafter contain the proceedings of our Society. So you can thus have them in good form for binding and preserving, and it is published at the low price of one dollar a year. Next to that I would recommend the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN, as being perhaps the best paper of its kind published in this country. It is decidedly a national agricultural paper, in which you find correspondence from every State and Territory, published weekly for two dollars per year. The PRAIRIE FARMER, published at Chicago, is another first rate weekly, at the same price. The GARDENER'S MONTHLY is also a valuable means of information to the orchardist.

When your papers come to hand, read them carefully. Do this for a year, and the value thus received will be so evident that you could not be induced to discontinue your agricultural reading. The influence of such a course will very soon be felt in our meetings, and the discussions will be far more profitable.

Have you not observed that at our meetings but a small proportion of the members are in the habit of speaking? A large majority are mere listeners. This is to a great extent for the want of reading. Then allow me to say, let politics alone. Take two or three agricultural papers, study them well, and very soon you will feel like taking a more active part in the discussions.

There has been considerable said about the extravagant style of the dinners that have been so kindly furnished at each meeting. In regard to that matter, I am disposed to leave it altogether with the individual giving the dinner, believing that the Society will always be satisfied and thankful with whatever may please our host to provide for our refreshment.

We are too negligent in bringing specimens of fruits, vegetables and flowers to the meetings. Every member should try to have something to lay on the tables at

each meeting. There is a degree of encouragement in this, and of a kind that we can get in no other way; besides, it gives a cheerful appearance and positive evidence of a fact that is of vital importance to us as a body. That is, that we think of our meetings while at home, and have a constant desire to exhibit something that will be pleasing to others and creditable to ourselves. We have, gentlemen, a great work before us. It is our duty (and should be considered a high privilege) to revolutionize the present system of agriculture in this township. Allow me here to ask the question, is farming in Meramec township, profitable? I answer it is not. What do our cultivated lands net us per acre? I have no reliable means of knowing, but I am positive in the opinion that, with the exception of the Missouri river bottoms, it is less than five dollars per acre. When we consider the general character of our farms, most of which are already badly worn, in consequence of the impoverishing system so universally practiced, of taking crop after crop from the land and returning nothing in the shape of manures, it is easy to foresee the result to which we are approaching, evidently to the final destruction of the land and consequent poverty and want of its owners. Whether my statements are literally correct or not, there is no concealing the fact that as a whole we are practising an unwise and unprofitable system of agriculture, that if persisted in will lead us as a community, at no distant day, to a state of poverty and destitution that will disgrace the present generation. This result should be averted, and I am sanguine enough to believe it will be, and I believe that the Meramec Horticultural Society will be instrumental in this locality, in bringing about the change so much to be desired. To do this, our first great object should be to encourage the extensive planting of orchards and vineyards, and also their PROPER cultivation. Second, let us use our united influence to induce farmers to adopt some system of manuring, and fully to understand that it will not do to draw from the land year after year in the shape of grain, without returning something in the shape of manures.—In order to bring this about more successfully, we should teach by precept and example the propriety of cultivating less ground and doing it better. The secret of all successful and profitable farming consists in making an annual return to the soil of such ingredients as are removed by cropping.

This, gentlemen, to us should be a subject of serious consideration, first as a matter of dollars and cents, and second it becomes more important in a social point of view.

Can we as parents insist upon or even expect our sons to remain here to pursue agriculture in the ordinary way? Not if they have any enterprise or sprightliness about them. If they wish to become farmers they will go elsewhere in search of new lands and there, perhaps, continue to perpetuate the ruinous course pursued by their fathers. We are thus virtually driving our children from the homes of their childhood. Many of them will doubtless be attracted to the large cities in pursuit of more profitable employment, and fortunate will it be if their moral characters are so well formed, as to withstand the allurements, temptations and vices to which they will there be exposed. To remedy this, let us induce them to study and practice Horticulture, and thereby create a taste for the cultivation of fruits, vegetables and flowers.

They have here on the beautiful slopes of the Meramec and Missouri, a noble field sufficient to occupy the time and attention of minds of the highest order of intellect, pleasantly, profitably and through all time to come. It is said that the cultivation of the fruits and flowers is the poetry of earth-culture. Then, I say, let us teach them this kind of poetry. It affords everything that can please the eye and gratify the taste.

What can equal the beauty of a flower, or the delicious flavor of fine fruit? It is said of the former that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these; and of the latter its praise is in every one's mouth. And I believe that when we become a fruit raising community, that fevers and biliary diseases will greatly decrease.

But a serious objection to the success of a general adoption of this self-ennobling employment is the want of faith in the success of fruit growing, and the fear that exists in the minds of many, that the business will be overdone. This is as unlikely as that the production of corn or wheat will be overdone.—Whenever the whole human family shall have a good supply throughout the year, then, and not till then, will we have enough.

Compare, if you please, the profit of the orchard with the profit of the ordinary culture of the grains. I see a member before me who has stated to this Society that he had an apple tree ten years old, which brought him, for the crop of the last season, $17. Multiply this by 48 (the usual number of trees upon an acre), and you have the handsome sum of $816.

It may be said this was an exception. Admit it. Still it demonstrates what can be done. If we can bring about such results from a single tree, the same influences can be extended to a thousand. But suppose we only get from our trees one quarter of this amount. We still have a return of two hundred dollars per acre, which is much more than the best cultivated farm in the township has ever yielded. But that want of faith already mentioned, prevents many from planting and depending upon orchards for an income. But, let me ask you, is not the apple crop quite as sure as the wheat crop? I believe it is. When the wheat, corn, or potatoes fail, as they often do, we are not discouraged, but toil on, and patiently eat the bread of economy, until we can make a better crop. Then, I say, why not wait with equal patience and like confidence for the products of the orchard? The celebrated orchard of Robert L. Pell, of Ulster Co., N. Y., produces an average net profit of $40,000 per year, he has sold apples in Liverpool as high as $21 per barrel. Here is, from good authority, a sketch of his beginning:

When he was planting all his improved land in apple trees, plowing, harrowing, in short, cultivating them year after year, just as you do your corn crops, he was termed fool, fanatic, insane, &c., and good honest men thought that he should have a guardian appointed to manage his business. But see the result. While he has now for years been reaping a golden harvest of $40,000 a year, his wise neighbors, who were so concerned for his welfare, are getting, perhaps, from $300 to $1000 a year from their grain farms, from which you may deduct one-half for cost of labor.

This shows a grand difference in favor of the branch of agriculture that our Society is intended to foster and encourage. Aside from the profits received, there is a moral, self-ennobling influence resulting from the planting of trees that we receive from no other source. It tends to open the heart and let in the sunshine of generous emotions. It teaches faith in the goodness of Providence. It teaches us to adore that Infinite Wisdom and skill which erects the stately tree from the crude soil, and causes the vital sap to run from root to leaf, and savory, luscious fruit to merge in full perfection from the fragile blossom. May we not say, that a tree in its summer suit of green, together with its fruit in process of perfection, is one of the most beautiful things in nature? The cultivation of fruit will do more to elevate and develop latent moral worth and intellect than any employment a people can engage in, and is perhaps better calculated to lead the reflecting mind with pleasure and profit from Nature up to Nature's God.

After the President's address, John F. Long and N. J. Colman were called upon and addressed the Society.

On motion of J. R. Allen,

RESOLVED, That a committee of three be appointed to revise the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society.

Whereon the President appointed T. R. Allen, Dr. L. D. Morse, and O. Kittredge said committee.

Mr. N. J. Colman, of the St. Louis Horticultural Society, invited the members of this Society to attend the meetings of the St. Louis Society, which were held on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month, at the Valley Farmer office, at 1 o'clock, P. M.

The President then announced that the next two or three meetings of the Society would be held at the Allenton School-house, till the weather and roads would improve.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to meet the first Thursday in February, at the Allenton School-house, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

WILLIAM MUIR, SECRETARY.

NURSERYMEN'S LABELS.

In former times, when engaged in nursery operations, we adopted a new plan of preparing bands for grafts, and labels for trees, which required not one-quarter of the time that nurserymen generally bestow upon these in the ordinary mode of preparation. In making labels for a nursery establishment, that sends off ten, twenty, or fifty thousand trees annually, it is no small job. In many of these establishments we notice that the labels are made with a knife, smoothing the surface and cutting a notch on each side for the string or wire, after the most tedious manner; and others, after cutting the face smooth in this way, use an awl for inserting the wire through the end of the label.

Our method is as follows: Procure a supply of clear, soft pine boards, with both sides planed. Saw these up into lengths required for the labels, say three or three and a half inches long; then, with an ordinary tenon or panel-saw, cut a gain on both sides of each piece, one-quarter of an inch from the end. These form the notch to receive the wire to each label. Then, with a suitable chisel or firmer, with the handle against the breast, split these blocks into labels of suitable thickness; then, with the same chisel, smooth the face of each piece, and they are ready to receive the wires, which are secured very expeditiously by placing one into the gains, and with a single turn of the label the wire is twisted and firmly secured. One accustomed to the use of the chisel can turn out an immense number of these in a day—more than six times as many as can be made in the ordinary way.

PROTECTING YOUNG APPLE TREES FROM RABBITS.—Mr. Lewis Howell, of St. Charles county, Mo. an intelligent farmer, gives us the following remedy for protecting young apple trees from rabbits. He says: "Take lime and fresh cow manure, in about equal quantities, and mix them with water, so as to form a mixture a little thicker than the thickest paint, and wash the young trees with the mixture in November a little higher than the rabbits can reach. Should there be much rain in the early part of the winter, repeat the wash in January or February and it will prove a preventive. I have a small nursery and use no other protection for my nursery trees, or the young trees in my orchard, and and they receive no injury from rabbits. L. H."

This is one of the best remedies that we have seen suggested. We have no doubt of its efficacy. And while other remedies may be equally effectual, yet they require an equal or greater outlay of time, with no return for the labor, except saving the trees from injury by the rabbits. With the protection suggested by Mr. Howell, however, it is very different. We have no doubt that any one would be well paid for making the application recommended, by the benefit the trees would derive from the manure applied to them. Lime and cow manure applied to the body of the young trees, and this application washed down among the roots must be highly beneficial. We hope that next fall every one having young trees will try the application recommended.

SENDING GRAFTS BY MAIL.

The mails now afford important facilities for an interchange of grafts of choice fruits. When properly put up, small plants, grafts and cuttings, may be sent thousands of miles with perfect safety. A year ago, last spring, we sent to a friend in one of the Atlantic States, cuttings of the Bullitt grape. These grew vigorously the first year, and the second spring blossomed and bore fruit.

Grafts sent by mail, require to be packed, so as to prevent drying; and this is done by first rolling around them a fold of dampened cotton-wadding, firmly bound around with a fine thread; over this is to be placed a covering of oiled silk, also firmly bound with thread; and, then, with a paper envelope, upon which to write the directions. With these precautions, grafts may be sent to any part of the United States, short of California and Oregon, perfectly fresh. If, however, from improper packing, or other cause, the cuttings become somewhat dry and shrivelled, take them immediately, and cover them with damp moss, and bury them in the earth, there to remain until they may be required for setting; and they will, in most cases, become perfectly restored to their natural condition.

XUM

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

HORTICULTURAL NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

BY CAREW SANDERS.

ORNAMENTAL FLOWERING SHRUBS.

Doubtless many of your lady readers, as well as gentlemen, who take an interest and delight in embellishing their home, will be studying about this time to know how they can best accomplish it. Trees, both of evergreen and deciduous habit, shrubs and flowers, all enter into the composition of a finished pleasure garden. But we propose to speak more particularly, at this time, of the hardy flowering shrubs, that combine rapid growth with beauty of foliage or blossom. A well-known writer says, "We have for a long time been impressing on our friends the advantages of planting belts and borders of these thickly about their small places—and it is amusing to listen to the arguments persistently brought up in almost every case against the proposition.

"Our rhetoric has often succeeded where our logic failed; and many who were not convinced, nevertheless allowed themselves to be persuaded into the experiment.

"Not in a single instance, that we remember, can any owner of such belts and masses of shrubbery be induced to break up the arrangement or abandon the idea.

"The place looks larger; becomes more cheerful; affords blooming and fragrant flowers all the season through; and the lawn, that loved and cherished little green spot, for which it would seem alone the proprietor and his family abandoned the conveniences of city life, appears to be actually increased in extent by the space the shrubbery has subtracted from it.

"The shrubbery is a permanent affair—one of the 'institutions;' and not only a once-for-all operation, but one which, like money well invested, increases in value every day. From early spring to late in the fall, or early winter, some one or other of them, if judiciously selected, will offer you its floral tribute; and for the one spike or bunch presented you this season, it will prepare a tenfold increase the next."

To guide our readers in making a selection that will afford flowers all the year round, we append a list of all the leading kinds of shrubs, as they bloom at different seasons, and the colors of each.

SPRING.

Double flowering almond, pink; Double flowering peach, white and rose; Common Berberry, yellow; Purple-leaved Berberry, yellow, rich, purple leaves; Sweet-scented shrub, or allspice bush, brown, peculiar fragrance; Mezereon, white and pink; *Deutzia Gracilis*, white, very elegant; Common Privet, white flowers, succeeded by glossy black berries; Chinese quince, bright scarlet, very early; Missouri currant, yellow; Wiegelia rosea, rosy, exceedingly beautiful; Spirea prunifolium, and Spirea Revesii, both white, but different shaped flowers, very ornamental shrubs; Golden Bell, bright yellow, before the leaves come out.

SUMMER.

Snowy Mespilus, white; Dwarf Horse-chestnut, white; White Fringe, very beautiful small tree; Japan globe flower, yellow; Deutzia Scabra, pure white; Purple Magnolia, purple, with flowers like a tulip; Althea or rose of Sharon, various colors, as red, white, purple, &c.; Mock Orange, several varieties, all white, free blooming, pretty and fragrant; Mist or Smoke tree, peculiar, mist-like bloom; Rose Acacia, fine roseate; Flowering Raspberry, reddish pink; Spirea Rosea, light rosy pink; Spirea Douglasii and Argentea, deep red or pink flowers, fine silvery foliage; Common Lilac, blue and white; Persian lilac, purple and white; African Tamarix, pink flowers and elegant foliage; Upright Honeysuckles, pink, white, and yellowish flowers and pretty berries; Snowball, white, old, but one of the best flowering shrubs.

AUTUMN.

Indigo shrub, purple; Bladder Senna, yellow, Chaste tree; Lavender, blue; Clethra alnifolia, white; Burning bush, bright scarlet berries; Hypericum or St. John's wort, yellow; Snowberry, white berries; Indian currant, red berries; Spirea callosa, reddish pink; Spirea billardie, rose; Wiegelia amabilis, light rose.

GRAPES—TIME OF RIPENING.

An exchange paper says, at Atlanta, Ga., near lat. 34°, and at a good elevation, the following table is given as the time of ripening eight varieties of grapes:

Lenoir, 25th of July to the 10th of August.
Concord, 1st of August to 15th.
Diana, 5th of August to 20th.
Delaware, 1st of August to 25th.
Catawba, 10th of August to 15th of Sept.
Elsinboro, 15th of August to 30th of Sept.
Norton's Seedling, 20th August to 1st Oct.
Warren, 1st of September to 15th of October.

MIGNONETTE.

May be grown into pretty objects by keeping all the side shoots pinched off, and encouraging the central or leading one to grow. Whenever any flower-buds appear, they should be pinched off, also. The leading stem should be trained up to a light stake, until it has reached any desired hight, when it may be suffered to bloom. By this process, what is called "Tree Mignonette" is obtained.

NEW MONTHLY CARNATIONS.

The monthly carnations, from a few ordinary kinds, have been so much improved that they have now become invaluable additions to the green-house, blooming all through the winter, and, with proper management, nearly the entire year.

The Continental growers have taken the lead in the production of these flowers, and their latest novelties are splendid yellow grounds, flaked and striped with lilac, rose and scarlet, of large size and the richest fragrance.

Several of these have flowered in our collections, and are superb additions to every garden. The following are the names and descriptions of some of the best:

"Eulalie—buff green, with lilac and scarlet flake.

Figaro—yellow, with lilac and scarlet, fine.

Invincible—buff yellow, with deep margin of pale lilac.

Prince Imperial—yellow, margined and flaked with lilac and rose.

Prince of Wales—yellow and scarlet, brilliant.

Robin Hood—rose and lilac flake.

Standard—orange ground, margined with lilac.

Videnda—pale yellow, margined with slate and rose."—[*Hov. Mag.*

THE CATAWBA ON THE REJECTED LIST.

It will doubtless take many an old grape grower by surprise, and perhaps cause no little amount of hubbub among the devotees and admirers of the famous Catawba, to find that (*now* ancient) standard of excellence placed on the rejected list. Yet such is the case, and by one, too, who is known to be one of the best authorities for his region, namely, Mr. George Husmann, of Hermann.

The Catawba and Isabella are the standards by which all other varieties are judged, and the Catawba has long been pronounced the great wine grape of the country. At the late meeting of the Missouri Fruit Growers' Association, Mr. H. insisted on placing it on the list of the things that *were*, but have now had their day. Reasons: Its uncertainty of a crop; its liability to disease, to mildew, rot, and many other diseases that grape life is heir to. Remedy: The new varieties, that in Mr. H.'s experience have proved themselves exempt from all the above casualties. He admitted that the Catawba, with all its faults, and with a full crop but once in four or five years, was a profitable crop. Yet, why should we continue to cultivate it when we have others that have proved themselves free from all those objections, and always a sure and much more profitable crop. Our opinion is, that none of the new kinds have been tried sufficiently long and extensively, as yet, to warrant their superseding the Catawba. Though there are some that give promise to do so, we do not doubt, but before we can afford to discard the old Catawba, the new varieties must be subjected to further trial and severer tests—though we think a higher standard should be taken in the future for the desideratum in table grapes.

Mr. H. recommends Norton's Virginia, and Herbemont, for wine, and Concord for table. We recommend Herbemont as one of the best table grapes we know of.

FALL OR SPRING TRANSPLANTING OF TREES.

Each season has its peculiar advantages for transplanting trees from the nursery. Under almost any circumstances we should prefer the fall season: First, because this is a season of comparative leisure, while in Spring there are many duties to be discharged upon the farm, that can be performed at no other season. Trees set in the Fall become established, with the earth firmly settled about their roots, and are ready to shoot their fibres during the first genial weather, even in Winter. In extreme cold and exposed locations, or in heavy, clay soils, Spring may be preferred; but the evils resulting from these may be obviated in most cases by any one who understands the business. A belt of evergreens or other timber is always desirable upon the exposed sides of orchards, in cold, windy situations. If the soil be of clay and liable to hold water, a mound should be raised around each tree to the hight of six or eight inches, in order to turn off the water and prevent the earth from becoming compact and hard. This is important, even in the most suitable soils, as it not only leaves the surface mellow in the Spring when the hill is removed, but it serves to steady the tree against the action of the winds in Winter.

But, with all the advantages of Fall planting, most farmers defer this work until Spring, and even until much of the pressing work of other planting is accomplished. This is a great mistake, because the tender roots of thrifty nursery trees break forth on the approach of the first warm days. After this, if the trees are removed, these tender rootlets are broken off and destroyed, and the surface becomes more or less dry, and on the failure of "*the first intention*" the vigor of the tree is more or less impaired; besides, if the planting is delayed until Spring, and often too late then, the tree can hardly get a favorable start sufficient to carry it through the dry spells that frequently follow, and hence they either die or get a feeble start.

Persons who have failed to do their planting in the Fall should embrace the first seasonable weather during the present month, provided their trees are near at hand, and set them out at once, always remembering that the branches should be well thinned out, and those that remain to form the head should be cut back one-half or two-thirds of their length. This is important to compensate for the loss of the roots and small fibres, caused by the removal from the nursery. A good covering of straw or other litter placed around the roots, extending over a space of four feet in diameter, will retain a moist, mellow surface during Summer and go far towards securing the life and vigorous growth of the trees.

A very mistaken idea almost universally prevails in regard to the care and cultivation necessary to secure the healthy growth of a young orchard. No delicate annual crop needs more careful and thorough cultivation than the orchard. The labor for this will be more than repaid by choosing suitable crops to plant between the rows of trees. These should never be oats wheat &c., but low hoed crops, such as beans, potatoes, &c.

More trees have been lost with the loss of a vast amount of labor, by a disregard of these simple facts, during the last ten years, than are healthy trees now growing in the United States.

The Apiary.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

"HONEY DEW," AGAIN.

EDS. VALLEY FARMER:—Seeing in the last number of the "Valley Farmer" an article headed "Honey Dew—What is it?" I have concluded to subjoin a few remarks.

I have been a resident of upper Missouri for twenty-three years—had never seen honey dew till after my arrival in this country—and such was the quantity often to be seen, that the notice of the most casual observer was called to it. I have seen the prairie grass so full of it that one's clothes and shoes would become gummed with it. I have seen it in the dust of the road. "What produced honey dew?" was often asked among us. As to the theory of an "insect producing it," it is simply absurd; for the quantity is too great, the quality too pure, to be produced in any such manner.

MY OWN theory is, the evening dews were then very heavy, or rather copious, as they are sometimes now. These dews lay all night on the tender vegetation and flowers, absorbed the saccharine matter thereof, the night dews passed off into vapor, while the saccharine portion was thrown back and formed what is called honey dew. Hence it ALWAYS falls of a morning immediately after the disappearing of the ordinary dew.—Hence, also, there is no honey dew except in dry weather. Wet seasons, the rains wash off the saccharine particles from the vegetation and no honey dew is to be seen. As a general thing the hickory leaf attracts more of it than other leaves, yet I have found it on every variety, and as before remarked, on the grass and even in the dust. I have seen it falling like fine mist when viewing it between me and the sun. We have not of late had very much honey dew except this last spring when it was very abundant.

When I first came to this country honey was so plenty that the best article could be had at forty cents per gallon of 12 pounds. The old settlers, twenty years ago, had their bee and deer hunt regularly every fall, and as a general thing, would return well laden with honey and venison. Many a pleasing reminiscence is yet told of these old men in early days here. But, alas! The bee moth has followed in the footsteps of civilization, and it is now often difficult to have honey at all.

I need not say to you that I am not in the habit of writing for publication, but if what I have written is deemed worthy of preservation, and the notice of MR. QUIMBY, you can give it a place in your excellent journal. Yours, Truly,

A. H. F. PAYNE.

Clinton County, Mo. Dec. 27th, 1859.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

HONEY DEW.

In the December number of the "Valley Farmer," I noticed some remarks on honey dew which has reminded me of the remarkable and profuse fall of honey dew in this section during the latter part of June last. "The oldest inhabitants" had never seen it in such profusion before. A friend visiting me from the adjoining county of Clay, was much surprised at the immense difference in amount here and in Clay county. He stated that there was scarcely any, where he lived. I would state that he lives in a densely timbered region, bordering on the Missouri river, while my locality is on an immense prairie. Now it may be that Mr. Quimby—King of Beedom—may approximate to near the truth, as the whole extent of our beautiful prairies, at this season, is one vast and delightful "flower garden," distilling its sweets during the heat of day and condensing them in the cooler atmosphere of night. I would be much pleased to have the observation and experience of others on this interesting subject through the medium of the "Valley Farmer." H. C. H.

Platte Township, Clinton Co. Mo.

Domestic Department.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

BURNS OR SCALDS.

Bind up the part affected in cotton batting saturated in lamp oil, or even common fresh butter. A slight burn is often relieved by covering it with wheat flour. Anything that will exclude the air is good to relieve the pain and prevent inflammation, by taking cold, were the burn exposed.

INFLAMED EYES.

A strong decoction of *good* green tea, sweetened with loaf sugar, and made smooth with thick, sweet cream, is often an effectual cure for common inflammation of the eyes. In severe cases bind the tea leaves on for a poultice; it is soothing, cooling and at least harmless. I have seen a violent attack cured in forty-eight hours by this treatment.

CHAPPED HANDS.

A salve made of bees-wax and sweet-oil is as good as anything. A piece of wax the size of a hickory nut, melted with an ounce of oil, and if you have it a bit of mutton tallow as large as an egg. Apply after a thorough cleansing in soap suds, just before going to bed. I prefer it to camphor ice, glycerine, or any salve made to *sell*.

TREATMENT OF CROUP.

When a child is attacked with croup or "rattles," apply to the throat a bit of fat pork plentifully sprinkled with black pepper; place upon the chest, *above* the pit of the stomach (or *too* much nausea will be created) a plaster of lard and fine-cut tobacco; give a few drops of sweet oil, or a tablespoonfull of lard melted with twice as much molasses, and in most cases the patient will be entirely well in a few hours.

SORE LIPS.

Camphor is an *excellent* thing to keep the chaps away from ladies' lips.

FOR A CUT WITH A KNIFE.

Bind the wound, while the blood is flowing, with brown sugar, thoroughly wet in spirits of camphor. Do not remove it till the third or fourth day.

To remove the odor from the rough fat of hogs, put a little weak ley into the water you soak it in.

HAM OMELETTE.

Shave with a sharp knife, from the lean portion of the ham, thin bits enough to fill a teacup. Turn them into a shallow dish with water enough to cover them. When it boils, break in five or six eggs; sprinkle them with salt and pepper; put in a bit of butter half the size of an egg, and dip the liquid over the eggs till they are done. Lay them out into a tureen; pour a quart of rich sweet milk over the meat, and when it boils up thicken it a little with smooth flour paste. Now with a knife and fork cut the eggs into small bits, and pour the meat and gravy over them. Stir the whole together, and you have a fine dish for breakfast on a spring morning.

NELLIE.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

Only a Farmer's Wife; or, Gossip on a Rail Car.

BY NELLIE C. FENN.

"And what has become of Susie Dean?" asked a lady of the friend she had met after years of separation, and with the recognition of whom a thousand reminiscences of school days and merry mates were associated. It was pleasant to see their glad surprise, and cordial greetings, and I could not help feeling an interest in their conversation, as, having taken seats together, they chatted of the past and present—mingling the cares of middle life with the pleasures of youth, and recalling half-forgotten scenes which seemed to have gathered new interest and freshness from their idle rest in Memory's storehouse.

"Susie? O, I don't know *where* she is now. She disappointed the expectations of all her friends. You know we all thought she would marry Walter Ingersol, who idolized her; and he was such a *catch* every body said—handsome, rich and educated; but Susie was a perfect little Puritan in her notions of morality, you know; and, though I believe she really loved him, she refused to receive his addresses on account of his intemperate habits. Some people thought she might have risked reforming him after marriage; but she would not believe that she possessed influence enough over him to work a reformation, unless he would abstain from his cups a year; at the end of which time she assured him she would joyfully become his wife. But Walter declared he would not be put on probation, and so they parted; he to travel in Europe, she to visit an aunt in the country, where she met a handsome young farmer who proved a more successful suitor; and in less than two years from the day she graduated with such honors from one of the first female seminaries, she retired from the world which had made such a pet of her, and immured herself in the domestic quietude of a country home. Her husband was poor to begin with: and two or three years of unsuccessful labor so reduced and discouraged him, that he was obliged to sell his small farm and remove to the West. I saw Susie just before they set out on their journey; she looked pale and thin; and though she kept up an appearance of cheerfulness, I fancied she thought of Walter, and the position he would have placed her in. She seemed very fond of her sturdy John Smith, though, and he was a very devoted husband I must confess. I suppose they are experiencing the romance of love in a cottage somewhere in the wilds, I have lost sight of them for years."

"What a pity to bury such talents in the earth. Susie had a brilliant mind; how proud her teachers always were of her originality and success."

"Yes. Every one said she was throwing herself away, and wondered how she *could* give up all her glowing aspirations, and with her genteel accomplishments, and really excellent education, content herself by settling down at last—only a farmer's wife."

"How disappointed her parents must have been. You know they denied themselves a great many comforts, and labored strenuously to educate their darling; they must have felt that they had wasted their strength and ambition for naught."

"Yes, they must, I know; though they loved her too well to oppose her in anything; still, I think, they aspired to a higher position for her than the one she chose. I fancy she does not get much time to play her piano; and I don't know of what use her knowledge of the sciences and languages can be to her now; doubtless she could manage her housekeeping accounts quite as well had she never been such a proficient in mathematics. Ha! ha! just think of *Susie* as we knew her—so sparkling and talented, so graceful and lady-like—plodding through the dull routine of domestic duties, bothering her pretty little head about butter and eggs, and patching farmer's clothes with her dainty little fingers; coming down from her fanciful flights of poetry and romance to plain Mrs. John Smith in a log farm house out West. Oh, dear, what a changing world!

My ears had been open all this while, for my attention was arrested by the first mention of the name of Susie Dean; and my fellow travelers had not conversed long before I was convinced that the lady in question was my own dear friend with whom I had formed an acquaintance several years before, and whose history I had learned from her own lips during one of my visits to her lovely rural home. I knew that Judge Smith had arisen to his present prosperity from small beginnings; and I could not bear to let these old school-mates of Susie's remain in ignorance of her good fortune; and at the first change of cars, I contrived to secure a seat next to theirs.

Providence certainly favored me; for I was just considering the embarrassment of my situation, when a noble, dignified appearing man, accompanied by a sprightly little miss, entered our car, and with joyful surprise I greeted Judge Smith and his daughter.

"That's it, we'll turn this seat; and if Lizzie can stow away her bundles and boxes so as to make room for me, we'll form a family party!" exclaimed the Judge, as he plumped himself down among the shawls, satchels and packages, upon the seat facing Lizzie and myself.

"Take care father! don't rumple my roll of music, I must get it into my trunk next time

we stop. Oh, I do hope mother will be pleased with my selection. Now I wonder if we have forgotten anything;" and Lizzie proceeded to count the articles which she had in charge.

"This is my little lady's first traveling excursion; you see she is very fidgety," the Judge remarked.

"Lizzie is always a careful little body. You must not be too much of a Martha, though, my child. Never fear but your father will attend to everything while you do nothing but enjoy your journey. Come, now, tell me about it; and, first of all, where have you been?"

"To Grandfather Dean's. Oh, I have had such a fine time. You see, father was going to attend the State Fair at———; and it was such a good opportunity for me to go to Grandfather's, that mother concluded to give me a vacation and let me go; we have been from home two weeks, and I have only been homesick once. Oh I do like to travel?"

"Have you been attending school this summer?"

"O, no! Mother teaches us yet. She could not bear to have us go away to school. Father says he supposes he will have to move into town when she thinks other teachers necessary. We are all so attached to our home, we should make sorry boarding school scholars,"

"Your mother is one of a thousand, Lizzie. How *does* she manage to perform so many duties, and do them all so well. One would think her domestic cares quite sufficient for her; yet she never seems weary; is always at leisure to entertain guests; reads a great deal, and never pleads "out of practice," when asked to play. Judge, your wife is a paragon of excellence."

"I knew that years ago, madam. Mrs. Smith has usually been blessed with good health, and, although she has seen the time when the multiplicity of her cares weighed somewhat heavily upon her, of late she has given up the supervision of her domestic affairs almost entirely to her housekeeper. Her servants are well trained, and everything goes on as systematically as ever."

"Your lady is particularly fortunate in securing so excellent a housekeeper. Mrs. Lennox is still with you, I suppose."

"Yes, though we are likely to lose her soon; and were it not that her successor is one of her own recommendation, and is to be thoroughly initiated in the ways of the household, before Mrs. Lennox retires from duty, we should almost regret our loss—but, I must leave you a moment. I have some stock on the road somewhere; I want to see if it has passed the junction. I sent it by another route."

"Father need not call me fidgety. You should see his anxiety for his pets, although he knows that Ned will take the best of care of them, having nothing else to do," said Lizzie, as her father left the car.

"Who are his pets?"

"O, some horses and cows that have been on exhibition at the fairs. You should see the premiums they have taken. O, did mother write you about my silver spoons?"

"Not that I recollect. What about them?"

"O, nothing. I suppose I ought not to tell of it—it seems vain in me; but you see I didn't make the dressing-gown to take to the fair; but, as it was to be a Christmas present for father, and the finest one I had ever made him, I tried my best, and mother showed me a great deal about the quilting and embroidery, and when it was finished it pleased her so well that she said it must go to the fair, to encourage other little girls to sew neatly; and don't you believe it took the premium—a beautiful set of spoons—and though I was a little disappointed in not keeping my secret, and surprising father at Christmas, I was pleased with having made a prize article. Mother took the premium on her cheese at the same time: but she made Mrs. Lennox take it, because she said it was hers in reality, as she had charge of the dairy that year."

"What are you prating of?" asked the Judge, as he returned.

"O, of fairs, one of your hobbies, father. Did you hear of your favorites?"

"Yes, they have gone on; they will reach home two hours before us. I was certain I had started them in time."

"You are very much devoted to your profession, Judge. Lizzie has been telling me something of your success. It seems you are determined to continue a farmer."

"Yes, I consider it the most independent, the most natural, the most delightful and ennobling employment of man. God placed our first parents in a garden, 'to dress it and keep it.' Other situations are just as needful and honorable; but for me none so desirable, on the whole, as husbandry."

"You have good reason to admire agricultural pursuits—you have succeeded well."

"Yes, I have been prospered. I began at the foot of the hill, and had to creep up little by little. At first I was unfortunate: but since our removal to the West we have done well. Susie was healthy, economical, and well educated. She made a science of everything, and between us, with the aid of an agricultural paper and a few good treatises on stock-raising and fruit-growing, we began *right*. I would never have a mean looking animal or tree about me, but got the best breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, and the choicest variety of fruit, on the principle that one *good* article is better than a dozen poor ones, and now I have a very fair show of stock, fruit, grain, &c.; and if I can carry out my plans, you would hardly know the old place two years hence."

"I thought it a fine farm when I saw it last; but excuse me for changing the subject. You excite my curiosity about Mrs. Lennox. I became very much interested in her during my visit at your house last spring. You spoke of her being about to leave."

"Yes, I was going to tell you about her. You know she was very unhappy in her marriage, and, being left a widow, dependent entirely upon her own exertions, my wife received her into our family as dress-maker, at first; but, the employment proving too sedentary, and finding her health and spirits improved by the

exercise afforded her in assisting Mrs. Smith in her household affairs, she gradually assumed the whole responsibility. Early in the summer, she visited a friend in another part of the State, and after her return she seemed happier, and we soon discovered that she was corresponding with some one whose letters were of unusual interest to her. At last she informed me that she had received an offer of marriage, and that her lover being a bachelor, and desirous to install himself in a home of his own without much ado, was anxious to terminate their short courtship in marriage, and consequently she had consented to fix the day as soon as possible. She recommended a lady of her acquaintance to fill her place in our household, and asked if I knew a good situation for a competent bookkeeper, saying that her intended husband had not as yet chosen a permanent home: that *she* preferred living in *our* locality, and that he had contemplated visiting her before settling; and if a good opportunity presented itself he would remain. I was just then in search of a young man to take charge of my fruit farm—one competent to keep the books and have an eye to the hands. I mentioned the situation to her. She was delighted with the idea, and immediately wrote him concerning it. He answered the letter in person, and who should he be but an old friend of Susie's, named Walter Ingersol? He was quite intemperate in his younger days; but having squandered all his property, and being thrown entirely upon his own resources, he joined the Good Templars, went to work, making his good education serve him well in his need, and became a steady, upright man.

"We like him much, and think our friend will be happy with him. I have taken him into partnership in my fruit business. The wedding will come off soon, and they will go to housekeeping immediately at 'Elm Grove.' I think, by the way he takes hold, he will soon be quite a farmer, and I know that Mrs. Lennox will make a model *farmer's wife.*"

There had been two eager listeners to the conversation carried on by our party, and I fancied from the expressions upon their countenances, as they surveyed the portly figure and good-natured face of Susie Dean's "sturdy John Smith," that they had changed their minds about her having "thrown herself away," and come to the conclusion that it was not such "*a pity*," after all, that their old school-mate had "contented herself with settling down *only a farmer's wife.*"

St. Louis County, Mo.

Apple Jelly.—Apples make an excellent jelly. The process is as follows: They are pared, quartered and the core completely removed, and put into a pot *without* water, closely covered, and put into an oven or over the fire. When pretty well stewed, the juice is to be squeezed out through a cloth, to which a little white of an egg may be added, and then the sugar; skim it previous to boiling, then reduce it to a proper consistency, and an excellent jelly will be the product.

DISPOSITIONS.

What is a disposition? Who does not know that has one to deal with, whether it is his own or some one's else? An important thing is one's disposition. And we propose our readers of the Home Circle shall meditate a moment with us on our dispositions. What dispositions are we cultivating? Do we keep clear of fretfulness? Do we avoid fault finding? Do we bridle the slanderous tongue? Come, let us take home these questions. They are pregnant with our future well being. If we are peevish, annoyed with trifles, vexed in spirit with our circumstances, out of patience with our associates, angry with our lot, half complaining of Providence and all out of sorts with everything—how can we expect from such a state of mind will grow anything but an increase of irritability and discontent? If we worry over our daily duties, chafe and fret in the social harness, we must expect that nervous torture and excitement will follow and increase. Our dispositions are the great sources of our miseries and joys. There is no overstating the importance and value of a well disciplined disposition. It is a throne of authority; it is a field of triumph; it is a fortress of power; it is a talisman of propriety; it is a treasury of good sense; it is a home of joy; it is a garden of serene beauty. It is better than genius to win us friends; it does more than fame to make us happy; it confers more pleasures than wealth, and, as a means of usefulness, it is that without which no power or talent or learning, is half available. With a well disciplined disposition, we may do, and be what we will: without it, we can scarcely do anything well, or be anything truly good. We should often resolve upon a faithful effort to control our tempers, to restrain our desires, to order well all our feelings, that we may possess that lovely amiability and steadiness of nerve, of will, and purpose, which we all prize and honor so much, yet which so few of us have.

To Make Gray Hair Black.—It is stated that a liquid that will color the human hair black, and not stain the skin, may be made by taking one part of bay rum, three parts of olive oil, and one part of good brandy, by measure. The hair must be washed with the mixture every morning, and in a short time the use of it will make the hair a beautiful black, without injuring it in the least. The articles must be of the best quality, mixed in a bottle, and always shaken well before being applied.

Editor's Table.

A Merited Compliment.

Few men have rendered to the cause of agriculture greater service in practically demonstrating the most improved system of farming, stock feeding and land draining in the United States, than John Johnston, of Seneca county, New York. Mr. Johnston is justly termed the "father of land draining in the United States." For his example and success in this great branch of industry, no man has attracted greater attention among the farmers of this country. As a testimonial for these services rendered, twenty distinguished gentlemen, chiefly farmers of New York, headed by ex-Gov. King, presented to Mr. Johnston, as a Christmas present, a massive silver pitcher and a pair of goblets, handsomely and appropriately embellished. The goblets bear the representation of men laying tiles for drains, a ditch digging machine, tile machine and all of the smaller tools used in this important operation. Mr. Johnston acknowledges in appropriate terms the receipt of this testimonial and appreciation of the service he has rendered to the cause of agriculture. We hope that his example in improved farming will be followed by the great mass of cultivators in the United States, which alone would add millions to the aggregate of the annual crops of this country.

The Scientific American and the Hon. Judge Mason.—From a glance at the weekly report of the doings in Patent Office at Washington, one is astonished at the march of invention and improvement in the useful arts of the present day. The patents issued for various useful improvements in the United States amount to several thousand annually. The country is largely indebted to the "Scientific American," and the patent agency of Messrs. Munn & Co. the publishers, for the light and encouragement extended by them to the inventive spirit of the age. As a scientific and mechanical journal the "Scientific American" has no equal in any language, and the universal satisfaction given by the proprietors as agents in procuring patents, has secured to them a large proportion of the entire business at the patent office. Besides their central office in New York, they have one in Washington, near the patent office building, and they are also largely engaged in procuring patents in all foreign countries. So extensive has their business become, that we are pleased to see it announced that the Hon. Judge Mason, late Commissioner of Patents, has become associated with them in the business. The country could hardly have furnished a gentleman more competent for so important a position.

No class of our citizens are reaping more largely the benefits of the inventions of the age than the farmers.

John P. Reynolds has been appointed Corresponding Secretary of the Illinois State Agricultural Society in place of Simeon Francis, resigned—an excellent appointment.

Lombardy Bees.

There seems to be quite a disposition to improve our stock of bees. A gentleman in Pennsylvania was successful, the past season, in importing some Italian bees. We now learn that through the efforts of the Agricultural Bureau of the Patent Office, a large swarm of Lombardy bees has been shipped from Havre, France, for this country. From the description given of the bees we hope they will prove capable of gathering honey from our common red clover, as our native bees are unable to do so on account of their bill being too short to reach the bottom of the flower. In witnessing a field of luxurient red clover in full bloom, each flower laden with a profusion of the richest honey, we have often felt a regret that nature had not adapted the insect to the flower. It is said of the Italian bee that it is not only larger than our common bee, but that its bill is longer which will enable it to gather honey from flowers inaccessible to the American bee. The red clover is the only important plant of this kind, and should it prove that the new bee can readily avail itself of its sweets, and the new colony should prosper, it will add four fold to the annual crop of honey of this country. It is probable that the honey in the red clover fields of the country is, by far, greater than in all other plants besides.

The product of honey from a single hive of these bees in a season is said to be one hundred and fifty pounds. The new swarm will be retained upon the government grounds at Washington until 1861, when they will be distributed, should no accident happen to them.

Small Fruits in Ohio.—It is estimated that there were produced in the Southern portion of Anderson Township, Ohio, and sold in Cincinnati market the past season, 7,985 bushels of strawberries, and 2,128 bushels of raspberries — making 10,113 bushels, which at the low price of $3 50 a bushel, amounts to $34,384 20. After paying cost of picking, say $1 00 per bushel, leave the handsome sum of $24,271 20. Add to these the berries furnished to that market by other portions of the State of Ohio, and from Kentucky and Indiana, including the large quantities of blackberries, Cincinnati may be set down as more liberally supplied with small fruits than any other city of equal size in the United States.

Quantity of Beef Consumed in One Year in New York City.—The annual report of the New York city cattle market for 1859, shows that there were consumed in that city, during the year, 214,764 head of beef cattle, making 139,596,600 pounds of beef, worth $12,885,840. Besides this number of beef cattle there were also consumed about ten times the number of veals, sheep and swine.

Of the whole number of cattle killed in this city, Ohio furnished 35,153 head; Illinois 35,171; Kentucky 15,188; Indiana 8,682; Missouri 1,074, and the remainder from various other Southern and Western States and the Canadas. The State of New York furnishing herself 42,035 head.

MISSOURI FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.—The second annual meeting of this Association was held at Jefferson City on the 29th and 30th ult. The attendance was very good, and quite a large number of new members were received. The discussions were very interesting, and many important facts were elicited from the experience of the members. It was decided to publish the proceedings of this meeting, together with the proceedings of the previous meetings, in pamphlet, and to append an Essay on Grape Culture, by Mr. George Husmann, of Hermann. The forthcoming pamphlet will be of great value to the fruit growers of Missouri, affording them a safe guide to the proper varieties for planting. The Essay on Grape Culture alone will be worth the cost of a membership in the society.

The officers for the current year are as follows:

President—Norman J. Colman.

Vice Presidents—Dr. A. W. McPherson, Prof. Geo. C. Swallow, Gen. M. Horner, Dr. McGuire, E. Burden, W. C. Price and John Dedrick.

Corresponding Secretary—Dr. L. D. Morse, of Allenton, Mo.

Recording Secretary—Wm. Muir.

Treasurer—Dr. C. W. Spalding.

The next annual meeting of the Association will be held at St. Louis on the second Tuesday in January, 1861. L. D. M.

THE YEAR BOOK OF THE FARM AND GARDEN, FOR 1860.—A reliable guide to all important rural operations, embracing concise directions for the improvement of the soil by draining, subsoil plowing and trenching, implements of culture—their history, cost and relative value. Rural architecture, with directions for the embellishment of the mansion, by ornamental gardening, including numerous other matters connected with home affairs, with numerous illustrations.—By A. M. Spangler Philadelphia, Pa.

This is a neat volume of upwards of one hundred pages. Price 25 cents, and cheap at twice the price asked for it.

KENTUCKY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The election of officers for the ensuing year was as follows:

President—Thomas S. Kennedy.

Vice Presidents—Lawrence Young, Arthur Peter, Dr. J. A. Moore.

Treasurer—James Buchanan.

Recording Secretary—Ormsby Hite.

Corresponding Secretaries—Wm. D. Gallagher, Chas. A. Page.

Executive Committee—A. G. Munn, C. C. Cary, Jos. Serb, Dr. Wm. Allen, J. W. Walker, H. S. Duncan, Ed. Wilson.

The Society then agreed to meet every Saturday at 11 o'clock, and appointed a committee to report on the expediency of holding a grand flower and strawberry exhibition next spring.

H. W. Peter, of Oregon, Mo. writes as follows:

I am sorry to learn from your January number that all the peaches in your vicinity have been killed. I have made a general examination in this county and am happy to say they are entirely uninjured as yet, and bid fair to give us an abundant crop the coming season.

Our fall was much dryer than yours which is doubtless the reason of our escaping, for we have had colder weather than you, and I am confident it came on fully as sudden.

I am pleased to see a decided improvement in the appearance of the "Valley Farmer." Its contents shows that you are not only determined to make it the best looking periodical of its kind, but that it shall be filled with the choicest and most interesting reading matter. I cannot see how a farmer can prosper without it. Yours, Truly,

H. W. PETER.

ENTOMOLOGY.—We are pleased to learn that the State of Massachusetts is about to publish an illustrated edition of "Insects Injurious to Vegetation," by the late Dr. T. W. Harris, with more recent discoveries on the subject by competent authority. Dr. Harris was one of the best entomologists of this country, but the value of the former edition of his work on insects to the general reader was greatly impaired for the lack of Illustrations. With the proposed improvement the forthcoming work will be the best practical treatise for the American farmer that has ever been published.

The work published twenty years ago by the distinguished Entomologist Say, has just been reprinted in New York, but the publishers charge so extravagantly for it that its circulation will be limited.

VETERINARY SURGEON.—We are glad to welcome to St. Louis Dr Henry Corby a graduate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, England. Dr. Corby was also for more than two years Demonstrator of Anatomy in that Institution. He has come to St. Louis for the practice of his profession, and we hope that he will be pleased with our city, and find sufficient inducements to make this his permanent home. There is a large and unoccupied field for him. Millions of dollars are invested in stock which are just as liable to disease as the human family. Great losses may be frequently avoided, and especially in epidemic diseases, when the services of a SKILLFUL physician can be obtained—and such a one we regard Dr. Corby.

THE RURAL ANNUAL AND HORTICULTURAL DIRECTORY, Rochester, New York, Joseph Harris. This handsome little volume of 120 pages, designed as a hand-book for the farmer and fruit grower is again on our table. The present number contains full directions on the planting and management of fruit trees, the dwarf pear, a treatise on pigeons and on diseases of domestic animals, &c. It has numerous illustrations. 25 cents addressed to the publisher will insure the book in return.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—We have received the eighteenth volume of the transactions of this flourishing Society. The seventeen preceding volumes are among the most valuable contributions to agriculture, yet we think that in the present, the Secretary, Col. B. P. Johnson, has furnished a work more valuable than either of the preceding. Besides the farm reports and other important matters, it contains several essays of great practical value—one on fishes, their habits and manner of rearing them, by Robert L. Pell, to whom was awarded a premium of $100. Mr. P. has eight artificial ponds on his farm, which contain forty-five different varieties of fish—some of them the most valuable known to our waters. The work also contains essays on fencing, manures, &c. &c. together with the fifth report of Dr. Fitch, the State Entomologist, on the insects injurious to forests, &c. We shall refer again to some of these essays and other papers in the course of the year.

THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPEDIA. Vol. VII. Edward—Fueros. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 346 and 348 Broadway, N. Y. 8vo. 786 pp. Price $3.

The value of this work is best appreciated by taking one of the volumes already issued and carefully examining it. The one before us, for instance, opening with a biography of Edward I. of England, gives us well written biographies of Jonathan Edwards, Queen Elizabeth, Edward Everett, Euripides, R. W. Emerson, Hon. Thos. Ewing, Benj. Franklin, Prof. Felton, and many other noted personages; historical articles upon England, Europe and France; descriptions of electricity, engraving, fire engines, &c.; articles upon natural history, entomology, ethnology, &c. and many other subjects embraced in the wide range covered by the volume.

As a medium-priced work, containing equally valuable information with the expensive and bulky English cyclopedias, this is equally deserving of commendation. It will be completed in about fifteen volumes, of which seven are already issued. Our advice to all wishing a reliable work of reference is to obtain a complete set, for they will find that the money thus expended is well invested. C. C. Bailey, Agent, 91 Main street, St. Louis.

RURAL REGISTER.—Keith & Woods, Booksellers, Market street, St. Louis, have put upon our table a bound volume of the "Rural Register," published by Luther Tucker & Son, containing three annual copies of that work for the years 1858, 1859 and 1860. This is a useful and interesting work and should be read by every body. Price $1 00.

Mr. Edwin Dean continues at his old stand, No. 85 North Fourth Street. The following is a list of the reduced prices of Singer's Family and Manufacturing Sewing Machines:

No. 1. Standard Machines, - - - -	$ 90 00
No. 2. " " - - - - -	100 00
Family Machine, proper, - - -	50 00
Letter A Family Machine, with top cover,	88 00
Iron Stand for Standard Machine, - -	10 00
Polished Walnut Table, ditto. with Drawers, and set on Castors, - - - -	15 00

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